Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Official Says U.S. Policies Preclude Negotiations

PA2901132093 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, said in Havana that the traditional hostile policies and the historic pressures exerted by the U.S. Governments against Cuba preclude all possibilities of negotiations, conversations, adjustments, and changes. He said the Cuban people are willing to withstand the difficulties stemming from the U.S. blockade.

In a meeting with over 70 Spanish tourists from Torre La Vega Municipality, Cantabria, Fernandez said that during George Bush's presidential term, the pressures against Cuba, as well as against the people interested in trading or doing business with the island, were stepped up as never before.

Fernandez said Cubans are ready to resist the blockade and to make all the efforts and sacrifices necessary because the number of people from different countries showing their support for the island is increasing every day.

Raul Castro on Role of Youths

FL2801141593 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Army General Raul Castro by Rosa Fernandez on 27 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Fernandez] We are only a few hours away from the 40th anniversary of the historic torchlight march. In light of today, how do you see the daring of those young people who led the torchlight march and who in addition, starting then, formed a rebel movement which was decisive for the triumph of the Revolution?

[Castro] In fact, 28 January, in addition to being the 40th anniversary of that demonstration, will also mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of our Jose Marti. At that time, it had been less than one year since Batista's coup d'etat on 10 March 1952. I remember there were thousands of students in that demonstration. In the vanguard, which was made up of several hundreds of young people, perfectly organized and aligned with their torches alight, there was Comrade Fidel. It seems like yesterday to me, and as you have said, a few months later, a large number of the young people in the vanguard of that demonstration headed by Fidel participated in the attack on the Moncada Barracks. Not all of them could participate in the attack, because we simply did not have guns for all of them. That was the torch that symbolically represented the first assault on the second military fortress in the country, which we also did.

I am glad you have asked me that question, because while we were here yesterday, while we listened to the questions you asked the army chiefs, I was looking at one of the symbols of Baracoa [words indistinct] although it cannot be seen well, a little more to the right, Los Cacaos Hill. As you can see, it is rightly called "Sleeping Beauty" by the people of Baracoa, because of its outline—although you cannot see it well because the sun is not shining—which can be seen along the horizon. I was thinking that 40 years ago, with the torchlight march and the later attack on the Moncada Barracks, the Republic was like that, like that Sleeping Beauty, which Fidel woke up with that torchlight march and months later with the attack on the Moncada Barracks. That is the symbolism I see in those events.

[Fernandez] To the accomplishments of those young people, in which you participated, or of whom you were a part, are added those of today's young people who will march tomorrow, 28 January. Are you pleased with your accomplishments and those of today's young people based on what you defended at that time, the rights of young people?

[Castro] You are referring to the Marti conference we held, that we concluded precisely before that march....

[Fernandez, interrupting] And the motivation that led to the struggle.

[Castro] I see that the reality of life has gone beyond it. However much we dreamed, we thought we would go a certain way towards the historic, social development of the country. But really we can [?feel pleased] because we have surpassed the limits [words indistinct] could reach at that time, or at that phase, or even in these 40 years. We have had tremendous difficulties and problems, but I am pleased with what the different generations that came after us have done. Naturally, the struggle is different now. It is no less heroic, as tens of thousands of young people have shown in different internationalist missions, which were brilliantly led by some of the generals who are present here. We are also proud of our young people, today's young people, who still have to play a no less important role than our generation had to play.

[Fernandez] They must continue with that lighted torch, right?

[Castro] It must never go out. If that torch were to go out, we would be left in a worse state than Puerto Rico. We would never be a nation. That is why, in difficult times, our people have been able to rise to the occasion. We can recall just that during [words indistinct] the war for independence, when Spain concentrated in Cuba the most powerful army that had ever been on this continent. Counting volunteers, the volunteers they had, and counting the final reinforcements when they mistakenly decided to use down to the last peseta and last soldier, they had 300,000 men concentrated here. Cuba had 1.5 million inhabitants (?at that time), including old people, children, and women. You can see the correlation of forces, the proportion. There was one Spanish soldier for every five Cubans.

There was Weyler's concentration plan. I remembered this (?the other night) when I was reading a history book about those events. In spite of the American intervention, in the first war of imperialist robbery they carried out, they entered Havana on 1 January 1899....[pauses] History has its ironies. Exactly 60 years later, on 1 January 1959, the first troops of the rebel army entered Havana.

It can be said that although Americans entered the capital during colonial times, their true absolute domination was from 1 January 1899 to 1 January 1959. I have also referred to the coincidence that it was five years, five months, and five days from the Moncada Barracks attack—the 40th anniversary of that will be this year—to 1 January 1959. History makes those who violate it pay the price. The Yankees had to pay. Of course, history does not walk alone. Men have to push it along.

That flame can never be put out as long as there is a single Cuban here. The commander in chief has also said this. He tells us this as symbolism. When he was alone with two guns in the Sierra Maestra, without knowing what had happened to the others, he had faith in the Revolution. When he was able to get a few more guns together, he said that famous sentence: Now we will win the war. Every time that he speaks to us and gives us some advice [words indistinct] speaks to the troops, speaks to the people, as on one occasion last year, he says: You are the Revolution. As he said to us: As long as there is a single man with a gun, the Revolution has not been defeated.

That is the spirit with which we must face times like these. We must also feel proud of living in difficult times. There will always be those who complain. We complain when we do not have obstacles to overcome. Perhaps because of the history of the lives of the older revolutionaries at this time, we are accustomed to combating difficulties, to overcoming them, being willing to face more, and continuing to overcome them. This is the spirit of combat that this nation has not lost, in their spirit (?of happiness).

[Fernandez] That is what makes Cubans great.

[Castro] And other things too.

[Fernandez] Thank you very much.

Raul Castro Praises Pancho Gonzalez' Feats

FL2801233193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, [words indistinct] Pancho Gonzalez in the historic mountains of Guantanamo.

[Castro] "I believe that it was Risquet who once said that Pancho's life story should be written down, as well as the story of all the anonymous heroes we have. Because of all this, and much more, as I told you at the beginning, when the commander in chief heard that we were headed this way, instead of waiting for an opportunity to hold a meeting [words indistinct] as I said before, the commander in chief decided to promote Comrade Pancho, which is what everyone calls him, to brigadier general."

Everywhere he goes [passage indistinct] an agriculture-forestry enterprise. Almost anonymously for many who are familiar with his story in other places, among the local residents [words indistinct]. At 22 he became a combatant in the last war. Since then, the mountain [words indistinct] the militiamen in Oriente's mountain ranges, as a natural chief and political leader on the Second Front, as an internationalist. As a forestry sector agriculture vice minister, not used to being in an office, he was always in the forest. During his no less heroic civilian mission as the chief of Arnaldo Milian Contingent, in Mayonbe's jungle [words indistinct] among comrades and family.

[Castro] "To speak of Pancho's feats, the feats of this whole family during our war of liberation, would take a long time—to speak about when he was the head of a political section of a regiment in Cabinda, how when he took command of the regiment and fulfilled its mission heroically. Several times he fell into ambushes, with a GAZ-469 [as heard] on which he himself put armor and a tripod machine gun in the rear [words indistinct]."

Those who know him always remember anecdotes and examples of his most unusual, selfless, and daring actions. Thus, these stories emerge, one after another.

[Castro] "In May 1992 he was here with some of those present now. The day before, I had passed through Arroyo Seco, as we did yesterday, in Mayari Abajo Municipality, where he built a hanging bridge, against the advice of many engineers, who were mistaken. He built it with scrap materials, like those bridges you have seen around here that are being built with scrap materials, permanent bridges, bridges that will last against time in such hostile places because of the weather we are seeing now. I took a picture and I signed it right here. On the picture, among other things, I put that in the special period, the special period [words indistinct] needs many more Panchos.

"I think that if I started talking about Pancho's history, of his humble beginnings as a mechanic in Mayari Abajo, here in the mountains, which he loves deeply and to which he brought not only his wife, but three children [words indistinct]. To speak about when he and his brother Melquiades were in the proximity of the nickel factory where some hired killers of the [Batista] tyranny were about to shoot several workers. They came closer, they opened fire, before which the workers were already in front of the firing squad. It is true that some workers died, but most of them were saved.

"Because a moment ago, in your presence, when we visited the Youth Labor Army women's company, while seating [words indistinct] said that we route to Pancho's

camp here, near Bernardo, where we would hear a report about his work. When we asked that company of girls from different parts of Guantanamo Province, some of whom had spent [words indistinct] time there, if they knew Pancho, they broke into applause. When I asked why he was so popular among them, one said, and those accompanying me heard this, [words indistinct] very simply she said: Wherever Pancho goes he gets the job done. When I asked her to clarify for me what that meant, the same girl answered: Because wherever Pancho goes, he performs a feat.

"But I said that there was no place more symbolic for reflection, for promoting him to brigadier general. This place where we are is the scene of his most recent feat. When he came here, he lived in a little cabin, and I visited him there. He began what he has done with very few resource. There can be no better place, under this persistent rain that is also a symbol of where we are, which receives the highest rainfall in Cuba. This will undoubtedly not be his last feat.

[Unidentified speaker] ' By order number two of the commander in chief regarding personnel, to grant military rank to higher officials."

Pancho's promotion to brigadier general is a tribute to his dedication [words indistinct] qualities of modesty [words indistinct] Thus this recalls [words indistinct] so typical of [words indistinct] knows everything. Along with the hugs from your comrades, there is also a hug from your people, who feel that you will perform so many feats in the future.

Foreign Trade Minister Addresses Businessmen

FL2801224893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] It has been reported that at the plenum of the general assembly of members of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba, the diploma of founder of the institution was conferred upon Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas urged businessmen to play a more active role in the struggle to diversify the markets and products of Cuban foreign trade. Upon giving the closing speech to the general assembly of members of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, Cabrisas emphasized that the only way to solve the problems caused by lack of hard currency is to export. Regarding this matter, he noted the considerable industrial infrastructure that Cuba possesses as a result of substantial investments that have been made over the past 34 years. This, along with the talent and competence of the work force, constitutes great potential for meeting the challenge Cuba is facing due to the complex economic situation the country is going through.

Talking about Cuba's possibilities in the international arena, Cabrisas once again mentioned tourism as a priority objective, and said there is potential for increasing non-traditional exports. Among the latter, Cabrisas highlighted medicines, biotechnology products, and medical equipment, which offer a variety of options for business deals that will benefit the nation.

Nongovernmental Science Organization Formed

FL2801224993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] As part of the activities to mark the 140th anniversary of the birth of Jose Marti, the Cuban Association for Scientific and Technical Creativity [Asociacion Cubana de Creatividad Cientifico-Tecnica] was established today at the Cuban Academy of Sciences as a nongovernmental organization. Luci Gispert interviewed Josefa Beltran of the board of directors about the aims of this organization, which will also be called the Beta Association [Asociacion Beta].

[Begin recording] [Gispert] One of the aims of this association is to provide opportunities for introducing the most advanced methods of technical creativity.

[Beltran] Yes, that is one of our aims. In addition to that, we also have the aim of training our members with mechanisms that, in accordance with the purpose of the association, will bring results in science research through nonconventional means. We also have as one of our primary goals organizing an operational system of consultations, seminars, and active and massive dissemination activities to train both the association's members and people in general to solve technical problems by using current techniques of creation.

[Gispert] Whoever wants to have a nation must accustom men to creating, our teacher [Jose Marti] said. We are nourished today by his teachings. [end recording]

Alarcon, Coore Sign Several Cooperation Accords

FL2901002793 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] On 28 January, the governments of Cuba and Jamaica signed several cooperation accords in science, technology, and tourism. The two Caribbean nations also drafted a cooperation accord described as very important in the fight against drug trafficking. Present during the ceremony, held at the Cuban Foreign Ministry building, were Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon and Jamaican Foreign Minister David Hamilton Coore, who is heading an official delegation which arrived yesterday in Cuba.

The two ministers had met earlier to discuss the current status of bilateral relations. Both officials expressed their commitment to continue strengthening bilateral relations.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 21 - 28 Jan
FL2901030993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 21 and 28 January.

The first 19 microbiology fast-diagnosis Dinamic-03C machines, produced by National Scientific Research Center, are operational at health centers in Havana. These machines provide rapid processing of urine cultures and tests to determine effective antibiotics. Recent studies reveal that their use results in considerable savings in reagents. Construction of 50 of these machines should be completed in January for use in pediatric, gynecological-obstetrical, and general hospitals in Havana and other provinces. Forty-six more will be built this year for possible export. [Radio Progreso Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan]

The Sugar Ministry representative in Granma Province has announced that the sugar harvest is proceeding in an acceptable manner. But the representative added that of the 10 sugar mills participating in the harvest, six are grinding under par because of a lack of tires and parts for the cane-moving equipment.

Around 14,000 hybrid chicks, obtained by crossing English red chickens with Creole chickens, have been delivered to Turquino Plan areas of Sancti Spiritus Province with a view to increasing production of this new breed and helping the mountain people become more self-sufficient in food. This breed prefers scavenging to eating chicken feed, provides more meat, and lays between 130 and 150 eggs per year. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Jan]

The Ministry of Agriculture representative in Cienfuegos Province says 1.6 million quintals of tubers and vegetables were produced in the province in 1992, a 26-percent increase over 1991 production. A 400,000-quintal increase is expected in 1993. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1000 GMT 22 Jan]

Arnoy Perez, executive secretary of the Municipal Energy Savings Commission of Santa Cruz del Norte Municipality, Havana Province, says that 90 percent of the fuel consumed in that municipality is now magnetized. Perez points out that this signifies both fuel economy and greater efficiency. Perez says all that is left to do in the municipality is to magnetize the water used in industry, e.g., in boilers. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Jan]

The Siguaney cement factory in Sancti Spiritus Province, the first in the country to use domestic crude, has saved over 230,000 tons of fuel oil since it started in 1987. The plant is expected to produce 250,000 tons of gray cement this year. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Jan]

The Isle of Youth saved 6,550 tons of diesel in 1992 by the application of alternative measures, including the use of a mixture of fuel oil to generate electricity. This alone saved more than 1,500 tons of diesel. Other steps taken were using firewood in student, social, and workers' cafeterias; reducing street lighting by 50 percent; and exchanging black and white televisions for color televisions. The eight-hour power outages were also effective, as was the use of fuel oil in 21 boilers and ovens. [Radio Reloj 1509 GMT Spanish 25 Jan]

GRANMA states that 4.2 million liters of the biological fertilizer azotobacter, close to 85 percent of the national production, were produced in Havana Province in 1992. [Radio Reloj Spanish 1500 GMT 26 Jan]

The University of Havana has just designed and built a laser for endoscopic surgery. The laser is currently being tested on inanimate objects. Luis Ponce Cabrera, head of the university's laser technology laboratory, reports that equipment similar to this costs between $50,000 and $60,000 on the international market.

The same newscast reports that as of 10 January, 65 percent of the tobacco planting program had been completed, with some 1,543 caballerias remaining to be planted throughout the country.

Also, Rebelde reports that the nongovernmental international organization Medecins du Monde has made a 10-ton donation to Cuba's hospitals that includes materials for dialysis, antibiotics, insulin, anesthetics, and infant formula. [Radio Rebelde Network Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan]

State, cooperative, and small farming sectors in Holguin Province have planted more than 670 caballerias of tubers and vegetables so far in the cold-season planting. Workers at Cienfuegos Port saved more than $500,000 during 1992 by applying a new technology for handling tanks of citrus concentrate. [Radio Rebelde Network Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan]

As of 10 December 1992, approximately 52.8 million seedlings of trees useful for their fruit or wood had been planted, with the help of the members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution nationwide in support of the Manati Plan. [Radio Reloj Network Spanish 1500 28 Jan]

The 194 canecutters of Brigade No. 39 of the Blas Roca Contingent have cut over 2.2 million arrobas of cane at the Gregorio Manalich Mill in Havana Province. In addition, the Melena del Sur Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise in Havana Province has produced more than 1,700 tons of compost to fertilize crops. [Radio Rebelde Network Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan]

Haiti

Prime Minister Addresses Nation 27 Jan

FL2801152093 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 0100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Marc Bazin at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 27 January; italicized passages in French—recorded]

[Text] Our compatriots, our friends: The last time I spoke to you was on 30 December 1992. It was a message to wish you a happy end of the year. I told you I would speak to you again on 7 February to tell you how negotiations on the political crisis were progressing, but many things happened between 30 December and today. Many important things happened very quickly. Consequently, I am obliged to speak to you before 7 February.

What happened? On 15 January, a UN and OAS special envoy arrived in the country. He came with a letter that Father Aristide had sent to the United Nations and the OAS. In that letter, the father said he had asked the United Nations and the OAS to deploy a civilian mission throughout Haitian territory. The responsibility of that mission is to contribute toward respect for human rights and to assist in a political solution to the crisis. On 16 January, at the end of the day, the military high command issued a communique saying the Army supports the UN and OAS initiatives within the scope of the Constitution and national sovereignty. On 17 January the consensus and public safety government wrote a letter to the Caputo mission [as heard], saying that it agreed. We agree as far as a civilian mission is concerned. *Nevertheless, it remains agreed that the process of installing the civilian mission in Haiti will be the subject of a prior agreement between you [as heard] and my government.* Since then, we have heard that the special envoy went to Canada, then Washington, and that he made a lot of statements. We are very surprised, especially (?because) he said the number and the establishing of the mission are not negotiable and that it is the OAS and the United Nations that will decide on that for us.

All of you know us. All of you know the customs of the consensus government. We do not like to be involved in an uproar; we do not like to make publicity; we do not like to ramble. It is in effectiveness that we believe. Thus, we said: Well, he [Caputo] is talking, he is rambling [misye ap voye monte] in Canada and Washington, he is under pressure; we will not engage in a battle of words, in a battle of abuses with him because we would not like to do quickly anything which might uselessly complicate the process of negotiations. We then said: We are looking for the terms of reference, we are looking for him to send the papers he said he would send to us to define how the mission will work.

Well, the terms of reference of the mission eventually arrived on 22 January. I can tell you that given the way the terms of reference have been written, they confirmed even more seriously all the statements he made abroad. The terms of reference are a four-page document, so I cannot read all of it to you, but I must read you some excerpts so you can comprehend, so you can fully hear what is in it.

The first strange article included in it is the following: The mission will fulfill its mandate in compliance with the decisions made and the agreements passed by the secretaries general of the two organizations. This means the only persons entitled to assign mandates to the mission on what to do are the OAS and the United Nations.

The document includes a second article stating that the purpose of the mission is to verify whether or not we respect all rights provided for in the Haitian Constitution and all international conventions signed by Haiti, as if—I could tell you—every time a country establishes a Constitution, every time a country signs an international convention, they tell us: Wait, we will send a group of people to stay in the country with you to see if you respect the document you just signed. There are other clauses stating that the mission will have to verify....[pauses] It will make recommendations to the government, but it has the right to verify that the government respects the recommendations. In order to ensure that the government applies the recommendations as it wishes, the mission has the right to take any initiative it deems appropriate to have human rights acknowledged and respected in Haiti.

There is another clause stating that the mission has the right to go anywhere. It will be able to go freely to any place or any establishment without being accompanied and without giving prior notice. How long will the mission be here? Well, initially the mission is created for one year, initially [repeats], and its mandate will be subject to renewal by one knows not whom, or when, or how. How many people will it include? We do not know. How long will it be here? One does not know. It is the United Nations and the OAS that will decide. If you take all these clauses and put them together, the only way you can summarize the situation is: We Haitians are done for because they will come; they will give us orders; they will verify that the orders are well-executed. If they are not executed, they will have them respected.

Well, as a native Haitian, I will not sign this document. No minister of the government will sign it. No true Haitian will sign it the way it is. Even though we say this, we are not opposed to a negotiated solution. Even though we say this, we still concur, in principle, with the arrival of a civilian mission. From then, however, one can negotiate. One can negotiate anything except for national dignity and respect for national sovereignty. We will not negotiate that. Then the government simply thinks that given all the dangers included in the matter of a civilian mission, we must tackle the issue with much vigilance, much tranquility, so as to create a climate that can favor the widest possible national consensus among all those who agree with a negotiated solution and who do not believe in violence.

Those people, who believe in a negotiated solution, include the Haitian Army. On 16 January, the Army

wrote to Caputo to tell him that it had agreed with the principle of a civilian mission within the scope of the Constitution and national sovereignty. A second institution that believes in negotiations is the parliament. The parliament told us in Villa d'Accueil that (?our) mandate is to negotiate, and it confirmed that on several occasions because it has supported the government's actions every time the government negotiates.

Today, I have written to the commander in chief; I have written to several members of parliament; I have written to members of the Haitian Episcopal Conference; I have written to representatives of the civilian society; I have written to representatives of the business sector; I have written to the Protestant Federation to ask them to join the government in a joint working group. The role of that group—because we must not forget that the parliament is not even in session—is to analyze the text of the document quickly. By the way, I sent a copy to the president of the Court of Cassation [Haitian Supreme Court] so that they can make suggestions to the government on how to tackle the rest of the questions once they finish analyzing the document. We hope this working group can begin quickly and that within 72 hours it will be able to send reactions to the government as to what it thinks we should do thereafter. While expecting the results of the working group, I would not like to tell them what to do, but I think that at this time, at this current critical moment, we must resign ourselves. There is a certain number of basic principles that the government must publicly and solemnly reaffirm.

The first basic principle is that it is the parliament and the Haitian Armed Forces that gave a mandate to the government and only to the government—it gave a mandate to no one else—to find a negotiated solution to the crisis. The government is working toward that and we do not want to shirk our responsibilities, but we will not approve of....[pauses] We will not subscribe to any arrangement made without us, without our knowing through roundabout means, and above all regardless of the national interest. We will fulfill the mandate the Army and the parliament have given us, and if someone does not act within this framework, we will refrain. Second, the government continues to totally support the initiatives of the United Nations and the OAS. We do not question the principle of a civilian mission or the fact that its mandate is to contribute toward the respect for human rights and to help us find a negotiated solution to the political crisis.

However, in order for us to cooperate with the United Nations and the OAS on the matter, it must be in an atmosphere of mutual respect and reciprocal understanding. We would like the working group to give us some counterproposals that could come quickly, in addition to comments on the text. Among the counterproposals, we hope they will come up with the explicit recognition of the principle of electoral legitimacy as the sole acceptable means in democracy to accede to power. We also hope they will ask, together with us, for the lifting of the embargo and the economic sanctions.

At a time of great perils, all the children of the same nation must stick together. Each of us must accept making some sacrifices of personal ambition, pride, self-esteem to allow the triumph of our common welfare. All of us must show proof today of unselfishness and political courage.

If today, all Haitians who are participating in the search for a solution to the crisis do not stick together to look in the same direction, *then we will be used, one after another. We will be pitted against each other and the foreigner will decide supremely and will impose his solution on us, all the more easily that* while I am speaking to you right now, Haitians do not speak to each other.

It is not because I do not enjoy the trust of the special envoy; it is not that I think that he is an incompetent or dishonest man, but if a man is serious, if a man is honest, he first must ask himself: What is this? Why is it that we are facing a Haitian problem? We are dealing with a serious problem for the country, but the only person who knows what is in everyone's mind is a foreigner. The only person who spoke with everyone, who came and told me this is what he said, and who went to see him and told him this is what he said, is not a Haitian, and none of us spoke to anyone. My dear friends, something like that is a scandal. It is a shame.

We must, we must [repeats] break the vicious circle of fear, hate, and mistrust among Haitians. We must do so quickly, before the irreparable arrives, before it is too late, before we lose all control of our own future. It is time to show dignity. All of us, as long as we exist, each of us in particular, but also Father Aristide, on behalf of whom the machine has started running, each of us, by examining the UN and OAS document, in the silence of his conscience, today must ask himself this question: Is that really what we want? Is there another way we could find what we want? Do we really want, in order to solve a political crisis among Haitians, to make the country take the risk of an international trusteeship? When there is a trusteeship over a country, it is not over a government alone that it is imposed. It is not a question of: This government is good, it will not feel the trusteeship, or this government is bad, impose a trusteeship on it. It is a trusteeship on the entire country at all times and on all the governments, and no one must play sorcerer's apprentice and say later that he did not know.

Having said that, we all have accepted the principle, so is it not an extreme emergency to stick together and look for what is to be done and how to do it, so such a civilian mission can help us without subduing us? Haitians, democrats and patriots: Nothing, nothing serious separates us, not ideology, language, beliefs, culture, geography, history, or race. Therefore, let us make an effort. Let us make an effort to avoid being led only by our emotions. Let us make an effort to control our resentment and our appetite for power. Above all, Haitians, my brothers, let us close ranks! Courage! Courage for all! May God, may the God of believers help and support us! Thank you.

* Hard Drug Use, Threat to Stability Cited

93CA0053A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 19

[Article by Salvador Guerrero Chipres]

[Text] The consumption of cocaine and heroin has doubled in Mexico over the past four years, and although 62 percent of Mexicans who have tried drugs have preferred marijuana, "hard" drugs are a growing, "albeit relatively marginal," phenomenon, the general coordinator of the National Council Against Addictions, Guido Belsasso, has asserted.

According to the United States Office of National Policy for Drug Control, two years ago Mexico supplied one-fourth of the nationwide U.S. demand for marijuana. In 1992, the office, whose head is appointed by the incumbent President, states only that Mexico is "a critical country" as a source of the weed.

Since Ciudad Juarez is one of the cities with the highest risk for narcotics use, Chihuahua will become a new region on the map on which the federal government divides up Mexico in its effort to improve diagnosis and prevent addiction. Until now Chihuahua has been in the "northeastern zone" along with Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, and San Luis Potosi.

This state, the tourist cities in the northern and southern parts of the country, and the Pacific coast are the highest-risk areas in terms of the growing penchant for "hard drugs," says one of the studies included in "Drug Dependency: From the Molecular to the Social Level," a limited-circulation book published in Holland by the National Defense Secretariat.

Belsasso warned that the national survey on drug use in late 1993 will corroborate the current estimates, which are that cocaine is the drug of choice among 12 percent of addicts, while 4 percent use heroin. Nationwide, close to 75,000 persons have used heroin at least once, while around 200,000 have tried cocaine.

For the second time in 20 years Belsasso is jointly responsible for presidential health policy to prevent and control addictions. He disclosed that the use of cocaine and heroin "has doubled" since 1988, while the use of analgesic narcotics, stimulants, tranquilizers, inhalants, and even marijuana "has continued without significant growth."

Over the past 20 years the consumption of narcotics in Mexico and the increase in drug trafficking "have forced the problem to be regarded as a matter of public health, national security, and solidarity so as to combat a phenomenon that jeopardizes the stability of entire governments," Belsasso said.

Among the seven zones into which the National Council Against Addictions divides the nation's territory, marijuana use in the northeastern zone, which includes Chihuahua, is one-third of what it is in the country's northwestern region (Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, and Sinaloa), which has the highest consumption nationwide and where the most seizures are being made and the most plants are being destroyed.

At present the north-central region is in second place in marijuana use. It consists of the states that drug traffickers have preferred after withdrawing from the country's northern states; the former are: Jalisco, Nayarit, Colima, Zacatecas, and to a lesser extent Aguascalientes.

On Wednesday, in Hermosillo, Belsasso will complete the installation of the 32 state councils against addictions. They will run the national program for combating drugs and give the federal government tools with which "an increasingly involved community" can respond in each state.

Based on the findings of the document "Epidemiology of Drug Abuse in the Mexican Republic," Belsasso said that whereas 4.8 percent of Mexicans (nearly 1,715,000 people) have tried drugs at least once in their life, 36.6 percent of U.S. citizens (72.5 million) have, in other words, 42 Americans for each Mexican.

Interviewed by LA JORNADA in the offices that the Health Secretariat assigned him after President Carlos Salinas de Gortari invited him to chair the National Council Against Addictions, Belsasso, who once represented Harvard alumni in Mexico, asserted: "The difference between 1972 and 1992 is that now the political will exists to confront addictions and combat drug trafficking." He added: "We cannot refuse to take note of a process that could corrode both society and the government.

"The impression exists that the intentions of officials are at times greater than their actual potential for combating drug trafficking and addictions.

"To begin with, I have been working in this field since 1968, both at the national and international level, and in academia, research, and operations alike. Twice already I have been in charge nationwide of coordinating prevention programs, from 1972 to 1976, and now this second time. I can tell you that a lot of things have changed. First of all, in 1972 there was no national awareness that the drug problem could hurt our country and there was no awareness of what prevention ought to be. Back then, it was trailblazing; now there is a nationwide awareness. There is an entire political program for how the problem should be handled, with an approach that combines prevention, treatment, education, a domestic battle, and international cooperation. We now know that drug trafficking must be prevented from corroding the structures of government."

This complex a problem "cannot be solved without political will or without social will" or without a "national structure for addressing the problem," a structure that comprises the Health Secretariat, the Mexican Social Security Institute, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, the Armed Forces, the law, and consensus-building, he said in conclusion.

Costa Rica

Calderon Trip To Spain Seen as 'Total Failure'

PA2901043393 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon's visit to Spain was a total failure. The visit to Germany was important to the extent that it encouraged investment in our country and strengthened our traditional friendship. What is serious is what is occurring regarding our mother country, Spain, about which we have always spoken with affection and fondness, is now defending its colonies and not thinking about the interests of those who were once part of its empire. Spain's defense of the Canary Islands makes no sense. We cannot allow Spain to follow an anti-Costa Rica policy when we are and consider ourselves to be part of the same Ibero-American community. It makes no sense that the struggle is now between friends such as Spain and Costa Rica.

We had viewed President Calderon's trip to Spain as very important. We regret the failure, but there was a lack of tactics and diplomacy. We are not talking about diplomacy in recalling the king's friendly visits to Costa Rica, his trips to Sarchi to see our traditional ox carts and to Limon to watch our Caribbean dances. The king and Prime Minister Gonzalez had to be told that we cannot tolerate Spain's policy of confrontation. Spain was the country that asked Europe not to buy Costa Rican bananas as a way to protect the poor-quality bananas of the Canary Islands. This policy harms the Costa Rican people and the marketing of its products and eliminates the possibility of competition. Our president did not uphold the firm position we had expected.

We think Costa Rica should have acted more firmly in Spain. Our president should have spoken clearly and warned Spain about the serious danger of its defense of the Canary Islands' production. The vaunted solidarity, the old friendship, and the European support for Central America are worthless when, on essential issues, we see a return to conservative imperialism, paternalism, and state control. Europe has not followed the logical process of free competition and liberalization in world trade. Europe, and much less Spain, has no right to adopt reprisals against Costa Rica when we have always been supportive and good friends. The president should have said that.

El Salvador

Cristiani on Army Officers Remaining in Posts

PA2901131993 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] General Rene Emilio Ponce and Colonels Oscar Alberto Leon Linares, Rolando Errarte, and Julio Cesar Grijalva are reportedly included on the list of 15 officers mentioned by the Ad Hoc Commission. President Cristiani wants them to remain in their posts until 1994, according to the local media. According to press sources, Cristiani proposed to the UN secretary general that a group of 15 high-ranking soldiers remain in their posts until the end of his administration in 1994.

Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce, and Cols. Oscar Alberto Leon Linares, Julio Cesar Grijalva, Dionisio Israel Machuca, Juan Emilio Velasco, Rolando Errarte, Nelson Ivan Lopez y Lopez, Fernando Menjivar Campos, and Humberto Corado Figueroa are reportedly included on this list. Diplomatic positions, such as Cols. Herbert Osvaldo Vides (Lucha), Orlando Carranza, and (Villaflor) are also included on the list. According to the same source, Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Zepeda will be withdrawn in March 1993.

In his reply to President Cristiani, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali rejected the president's decision concerning the 15 officers, as he feels this does not comply with the recommendations made by the commission to purge the Army.

Likewise, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front said it is unacceptable that the commission's recommendations will not be implemented until 1994. So far, President Cristiani has not answered the request by the UN secretary general for new measures in the case of the high-ranking military officers.

CD Favors Removal From Preferential Tariff System

PA2801183793 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD]—a party coalition—said on 27 January it favored the request filed by the National Peasant-Workers Unity (UNOC) before the U.S. Government to remove El Salvador from the preferential tariff system.

Constant labor conflicts are generated by disrespect of workers' rights; therefore, the Salvadoran Workers National Union and UNOC have been engaged in negotiations with the U.S. Government to remove El Salvador from that nation's preferred tariff system. On 27 January, Deputy Mario Aguinada Carranza for the CD established its support of the request filed last week by UNOC aimed at removing El Salvador from the list of nations favored by the preferential tariff system. Here is what Deputy Aguinada said:

[Begin Aguinada recording] At this time we have two decisions we want to announce to the community. The first is our support of the request the UNOC leadership is presenting before the nation and the world to ensure labor union members' rights are respected. This is [words indistinct] by the Constitution, the right to work and the right to organize labor. The Constitution

requires abidance of all international government agreements. The government is not complying with the commitment it made with the International Work Organization, as it is violating the right to organize labor [words indistinct] the organization of labor unions. During this government, not one labor union has been organized. This translates into an affront against workers' freedom to organize. [end recording]

The CD also considered fair the Salvadoran businessmen's demand for preferential tariffs for their exports. Nevertheless, the political coalition believes both requests—that of the UNOC and that of the businessmen—cannot be satisfied if the government does not meet its obligations. Faced with this problem, Aguinada said the government has sole responsibility and it is the government that has to take the first step toward finding a solution.

[Begin Aguinada recording] We call on the government to meet as soon as possible with delegates from the UNOC and businessmen. This is not a matter of creating a conflict; what we want is to resolve a conflict. The CD will present this problem to Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] for its intervention According to the peace agreements, Copaz was to organize a national dialogue that currently is not taking place. This is a matter of national interest as it involves workers and businessmen. It is the state's obligation to comply with the [words indistinct] agreements it has signed. [end recording]

Guatemala

Congress Leader on Peace Talks, U.S. Military Presence

PA2801153993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] Congress President Jose Lobo Dubon stated that the Army and guerrillas will be responsible if the peace talks are blocked and, consequently, the struggle continues. He also urged that President Jorge Serrano be the official spokesman in the talks. Dubon added that "a sector of the Armed Forces and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) can throw the negotiation process overboard due to their lack of flexibility."

Another factor mentioned by Lobo Dubon was that both military and civilian officials make statements on their own, which are not precisely aimed at seeking mechanisms for rapprochement. Therefore, he said, the Armed Forces commanding general should be the one to speak.

The government must centralize the information and dialogue between the parties involved should begin immediately without any conditions or obstacles because the signing of a peace agreement will be a very important step that will mean the end of hostilities, he added.

On another subject, Lobo Dubon said he will request from Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa a report on the presence of 400 U.S. soldiers in Guatemala.

Lobo Dubon said that only Congress can authorize a foreign military presence in the country, but no authorization was required in this case because the soldiers are part of a working team participating in nonmilitary activities. Therefore, congressional approval was not necessary.

Honduras

President Callejas Discusses Economic Conditions

PA2801231493 Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0250 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by Nahum Valladares at the Government House in Tegucigalpa on 27 January—recorded]

[Text] [Valladares] Good evening, Mr. President.

[Callejas] Good evening, Nahum. Dear fellow Hondurans, three years after being elected to the Presidency of the Republic and after taking office on 27 January 1990, I feel a deep commitment as I come before you to discuss with and inform you as a responsible leader of the actions, decisions, and results of my public administration. I am doing this out of affection for each of you because you supported me with resolve, determination, and especially with hope when I sought the Presidency of the Republic. Your decision was based on the desire to improve the country's economic and social conditions and to find in change the hope of a better future.

In response to this fact I am here with you tonight, remembering the first speech I delivered as president of the Republic. In that speech I explained to the Honduran people how I perceived the nation's enormous economic crisis and the very difficult, very hard decisions I would have to make to create the conditions for a better future for my fellow Hondurans. I clearly remember, and I hope you do also, that I said history will recall the two most difficult years, 1990 and 1991. Believe me, fellow Hondurans, that the complex reality of Honduras demanded profound measures and enormous sacrifices. Sacrifices, which I see now and that I must inform you about, are yielding favorable tangible results that will create better opportunities for our children.

There can be no doubt that it was not an easy task. My government has made decisions in a variety of areas, some of which you may have forgotten but I believe it is vital that every Honduran be reminded of them. The government encountered real situations, not only in the economic area but also in the social and international areas.

I remember how difficult it was to fulfill the plans that ended the presence of Nicaraguan unconventional counterrevolutionary forces in our territory. The conflict ended and opened up an avenue of peace for us. I clearly remember the issue of refugees who were in Honduran territory. For the first time in world history these refugees returned to their countries sensing the Honduran people's affection and respect.

[Valladares] Has the government noticed any improvement in the country's economic levels?

[Callejas] Undoubtedly. The numbers are there; they are clear and precise and are realities we must recognize. At the end of 1992, we were able to reduce the country's foreign debt. When I received the government, the country was in arrears and owed $3.3 billion; now we owe $3.1 billion. The private debt was over $250 million; now, it is $32 million. This means there is efficiency in handling the Honduran people's debt; we have reduced it.

Regarding macroeconomic aspects, I know that you do not receive an immediate impact from this improvement on what you are most interested in—your living standard. We cannot deny, however, that when a country is undergoing economic growth, reserves are important. Without economic or monetary reserves in dollars, we could not buy petroleum and when I took office, there was none. We could not buy medicines, and when I took office there were none. These are symptoms typical of an economy undergoing a growth process. I received the Government of the Republic with minus $500 million in international reserves; this year we have $220 million in reserves. This means we have recovered over $600 million, which is an advance that really reflects the country's economic improvement.

Over the last two years....[pauses] The adjustment began in 1990, which was a terrible year for the nation. There was a depression and the growth rate dropped. Now, we have reached growth rates much higher than the ones at the beginning of my administration and, of course, much higher than the rates in the 1980's. In 1992 the growth rate was 4.2 percent and in 1993 it will be 5 percent. The country is on the path of economic recovery.

It is also important that the inflationary process increased from 10 percent in 1989 to over 35 percent in 1990, then decreased to 25 percent in 1991. Now we have reduced it to under 6.5 percent with plans to maintain the stability of prices in 1993.

What other tangible and legitimate examples are there of the economy's improvement? The increase of the number of people affiliated to the social security fund. Many of those who are now listening to me are affiliated to the social security fund.

What are the requirements to be affiliated to the social security fund? You have to have a job and be on a payroll. One cannot be affiliated to the social security fund if one does not have a salary from an enterprise that is part of the social security fund.

How many people have become new affiliates of the social security fund during my government? There have been 123,000 new affiliates, thus going from a little over 400,000 in 1989 to 623,000 in 1992 [figures as heard]. This increase effectively reflects the increase of employment in the Republic of Honduras. There are clear statistics in some of these areas and it would be interesting to mention that this picture shows us the growth of employment in the industrial sector, which went from 4,600 in 1989, to 25,000 in 1992.

We have the same characteristics at the Honduran Institute of Professional Training.

When I took office, the number of companies that made social security payments went from approximately 4,500 in 1989 to 9,000 in 1993. Agricultural production grew by 5 percent and it is perceived that the saving capacity of the Honduran people has doubled. We have increased the country's savings from 847,000 million lempiras to 1.8510 billion lempiras, which represents an increase of 120 percent between 1990 and 1992.

The question I ask myself is why does a society save? What is the reason for this increase in savings? It is because people have more resources available. There cannot be savings without an increase in salaries and production. These are real figures that are available to each citizen of the country and are published by the government's entities and the Central Bank of Honduras. I am pleased to see these figures.

Logically, Honduran people, dear compatriots, not all the perspectives are positive. When I took over the government, my main concern was....[pauses] because the level of poverty in 1960 was equal to 60 percent of the population and by 1989, 70 percent of Hondurans lived in poverty. The first and second year of my administration, the index of poverty increased to 72 percent given the harshness of the economic adjustment and the ensuing depression.

By the end of 1992 and early 1993, however, the trend in the index of poverty had been reversed. In 1993, I hope to leave the country with a 68 percent level of poverty, which, although minimum, will be positive for the Honduran people.

The per capita income for 1993 will be higher than the per capita income for 1989 and 1985. These are definite indications we are improving. We have worked a great deal to improve the economy. If in fact we have liberalized all prices, the important thing is that we have controlled the inflationary impact of this measure, which is the aspect that most affects your interests. I will later refer to inflation in this conversation.

[Valladares] Mr. President, some of the figures you mentioned referred to the increase in social security payments and the increase in savings. During the three

years of your administration, what changes have been made to the minimum wage, as this is a factor that influences the purchasing power of Hondurans?

[Callejas] This is the reality of the minimum wage. As you can see, between 1982 and 1990, the minimum wage remained at 6.30 lempiras. We made minimum wage increases in 1991 and 1992. Now, the minimum wage stands at 15.78 lempiras. There has been an increase of 206 percent in the minimum wage.

To give you another example, just as we did with the minimum wage, we have increased the salaries of teachers by 76 percent. Now, elementary school teachers make more than 1,800 lempiras per month, including compensations, while high school teachers make more than 1,600 lempiras per month, which results in a real increase in wages.

Regarding purchasing power, I took the liberty to request graphs and comparative tables for a series of products, which although have gone up in price also have a direct bearing on the citizens' minimum wage. For example, in 1989 the minimum wage was 6.30 lempiras and this amount could purchase 2.3 lbs. of chicken. In 1992 the minimum wage was 15.78, which could purchase 3.1 lbs. of chicken. The same goes for milk. We admit that the price of milk has increased, but notice that in 1989, 5.3 liters of milk could be purchased with the minimum wage. In 1992 it was 6.3 liters. In 1989 11.3 lbs. of sugar could be purchased with the minimum wage, while in 1992 14.7 lbs. could be purchased with the minimum wage. This same example can be seen with beans. In 1989 the minimum wage bought 5.3 lbs. of beans and today 13.2 lbs. can be purchased with the same minimum wage. Corn is another example, rice to a lesser extent, and also loaves of bread. As I said before, this has been a variation of the country's price index. You can see that these have been the most difficult years of the economic adjustment plan. Now, we have managed to reduce inflation.

It is worth noting, fellow citizens, as I said at the beginning of my administration, that the first year was for economic adjustment, and the second year was for establishing the framework to create the conditions of social compensation—programs such as bonuses for single mothers. In this program we help more than 150,000 women with 20 lempiras a month or more to allow her children to attend school. We are going to supply shoes to nearly 500,000 children who had none and school desks to half of the Honduran children.

In areas of education and health, truly important steps have been taken. In 1989, 80 rural aqueducts were built. During the first two years of my administration we built 1,400 and we will build during 1993 an additional 1,200, which will supply water to a large area and serve many of our fellow citizens. We have opened 11 hospitals, 100 clinics with a doctor for a total of 300 clinics. Even though medicines are still a problem, there is no doubt that we are finding a solution to ensure a permanent supply for hospitals.

Indexes have changed in education; truancy has been reduced, primary education coverage has increased, and we have undergone a huge modernization program.

I want to admit that the country has still not shed itself of its poverty, but tangible and important steps have been taken. We are now at a stage in which the stability of prices can be seen; the figures tell us this and salary adjustments are made accordingly. The outlook and perspective for Hondurans are much better for the sake of the destiny of our country.

[Valladares] Mr. President, you have already referred to an issue that is quite decisive as it relates to price stability. You have provided ample explanation of certain goods most frequently used by the people. I would like to ask you something that, as you well know, is quite touchy: fuel and gasoline prices. When will there be an increase? What policies have you maintained during these last months of your administration?

[Callejas] Until now, our general policy has been to transfer any price increase or decrease to the consumer. This has been quite noticeable. When my administration came to office, as you may recall, I was forced to travel to Mexico and Venezuela because there was insufficient fuel supplies in reserve, despite what is being said now. At that time premium gasoline was priced at 4.15 lempiras. When the Gulf War broke out, gasoline prices increased to 11.33. Today, gasoline prices has fallen to 9 lempiras. In other words, although gasoline prices increased, the trend has always been toward stabilizing as well as implementing cuts. This has been the norm as long as cuts have also taken place on the international market.

Maybe what is even more significant is the human and social aspect of this issue. When I took over the government, kerosene was priced at 2.15 lempiras and now it stands at 2.97. If we compare this to the minimum wage, we notice that kerosene is cheaper today than in 1989. That is why, my fellow countrymen, I appeal to you to ponder that, although there is a problem in what was fundamentally an increase in the cost of living and fuel, the government's objective has always been to avoid implementing any extreme price increase.

One of the clearest examples is the urban transportation system. In 1989, the urban transportation fare was 25 cents. How much does it cost today? It is still 25 cents. There has been no increase in the urban transportation fares. We understand this need, despite the fact that it represents a yearly cost of 6 million lempiras to the government and society.

I cannot deny that one of the most critical elements of the economic program has been the rates charged by the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE]. I would like to remind you that the ENEE was carrying a 900 million lempira debt on its books. Today, that debt has

been renegotiated, and a large portion has been canceled. To have this enterprise really working to benefit the people, we were forced to made certain decisions. The first was to improve the hydroelectric system. The best example of this is the Rio Lindo hydroelectric power station, where we have invested nearly 90 million [currency not specified] in repairs. It is the first time this power station has been repaired since it was constructed and opened. We have been forced to implement a massive improvement program to upgrade the conduction lines, and we have made hydroelectric services available to a significant portion of our compatriots, nearly 500,000.

In acknowledging this electricity problem, the government has subsidized 200,000 consumers. The impact has been more serious for two sectors in Honduras: consumers of more than 300 kilowatts and the national productive sector. For this reason, and after having confronted the ENEE financial problems, I have committed myself, with the Honduran people, to analyze the competitive features of our rates in order to promote the efficiency of goods produced for the domestic and international markets.

The second was the acknowledgement of the urgent need for mechanisms that will allow an in depth evaluation of the effects of the rates charge on the middle class in our country. I am willing to implement an in depth evaluation to generate new opportunities. We could not continue in this direction without first confronting the serious financial crisis that plagued the ENEE, just as it plagues the government.

[Valladares] Please allow me to ask you another question. [Words indistinct] in your address before the Congress, we heard you say that to implement educational programs aimed at strengthening society, your government plans to privatize the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise [Hondutel]. The funds received from this privatization program would then be used for education. Could you please elaborate on this?

[Callejas] There are three conditions every country must first fulfill if it wants to achieve development: education, telecommunications, and highways infrastructure. You have all been able to witness how we rebuilt and will continue to rebuild the primary road system in Honduras.

All the roads that were paved when my government took office are being repaired and will be repaired: The Northern Highway, Southern Highway, the road to Olancho, the road to Danli and El Paraiso, the Tela-Progreso-La Ceiba Highway, the road to La Esperanza, the road to Marcala will be rebuilt, and the road at the entrance of (Chabelecon).

This year we will open a bid to build the road from Santa Rosa de Copan to Cucuyagua at the border, the entrance to the Copan ruins. We are paving the road from Gracias to Santa Rosa de Copan. An expressway from Villanueva to Puerto Cortez and from Progreso to Puerto Cortez is being built. We are investing more than 1 billion lempiras on this part, which was completed first. But now the second stage is coming up, in which we will rebuild 12,000 km of dirt roads. All the dirt roads in the 18 departments will be upgraded. They will be furnished with culverts, gravel beds, etc. They will be left in excellent condition.

I sometimes come across compatriots who recognize that the main roads of the country are being repaired, but argue that the bus and inner city routes are still dirt roads. Beginning this year, we, with the municipalities, will invest more than 100 million lempiras in paving urban transportation routes throughout the country. The government's activities in this area will be seen in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro, La Ceiba, Choloma, Progreso, Choluteca, Danli, Nacaome, Comayagua. By the end of my term, the road system will be the best in Central America.

Concerning telecommunications, when I took office, there were 100,000 telephone lines in the country. We are investing $230 million, nearly 1.5 billion lempiras, to develop two great areas of telecommunications. We will install 200,000 regular telephone lines and 100,000 cellular telephone lines. When I conclude by term, the country will have 330,000 regular telephone lines and 100,000 cellular telephone lines. By the end of my administration, there will be 400,000 telephone lines spread throughout the country, to the point that—this is something new—we will have 100 public and private telephone lines in Puerto Lempira to serve our compatriots from Gracias a Dios.

The issue of the privatization of Hondutel is related to the modernization of education, which is the third precondition for the country's development. We cannot develop without education. Despite the improvement in the statistics, the reduction in the dropout rate, the increase in registrations, the improvement of coverage in grade school programs, we must take a significant step in the education of Honduras.

We must recognize the fact that 6,000 teachers are needed to go from one teacher schools to two teacher schools. We do not have the money in the budget to face such expenses. That is why I proposed to Congress that, after holding consultations and guaranteeing labor stability, Hondutel be privatized under a concept of democratization of capital. These resources, hundreds of millions of lempiras—will be allocated to a modern education fund to finance the modernization of Honduran education.

[Valladares] Mr. President, regarding international relations, we now see that the Central America of two or three years ago is a thing of the past because of the political stability that has resulted from the end of some of the guerrilla movements in some neighboring countries. Our country played an important role in this. I would like you to speak to the country regarding the faith

that Hondurans keep—no one [words indistinct] his border and neighbor problems. What may we expect in the immediate future?

[Callejas] Peace, economic development, and social well-being. Under such a scheme, in an atmosphere that allows us to foresee a future without ideological differences or violence, the alternative for the Honduran people is a society of opportunity in democracy. I have already clearly told the Honduran people: I am going to turn over the Honduran presidency on 27 January 1994, and I will do so with the feeling of having bolstered a change in the country. Not everyone must necessarily be satisfied, because undoubtedly, I repeat, the short-term outlook in such a poor country has a heavy impact on our standard of living. Our citizens are recuperating. I have shown, through the statistics I cited, how we see ourselves. But these achievements mean nothing unless we live in a pluralistic and democratic society and in peace.

The achievement of delimiting the border with El Salvador, the removal of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary forces and refugees, the decision to grant a general amnesty and to repatriate everyone who left the country for ideological reasons, means that in our country there is a great sense of understanding and solidarity, and this peace builds a better destiny for all Hondurans.

[Valladares] To end, do you want to send a message to the Honduran people?

[Callejas] I ask my fellow citizens, the women and men who placed their trust in my government, and those who oppose my ideas—this society is broad.... [pauses] I have strived for constant dialogue with the people; I have never closed the doors, either of my heart, my mind, or the presidential palace, to the various sectors. Some share my views, others do not. But what I have done over these past three years is to prepare the country for the 21st Century.

Believe me, fellow citizens, the country I am going to hand over to the next president will be in better shape. The next Honduran president will not have to implement structural economic adjustment programs, will not have to pay surcharges for unpaid foreign debts, will not have to rebuild the country's roads, will not have to face the financial problems that afflicted the Honduran electric power system. The next president will have available hospitals that he will have to improve eventually and a huge fund to modernize the Honduran education system. The president will be able to concentrate his efforts on human development; improve the peoples' lifespan; educational levels; consolidate the economy to generate $1 billion worth of exports by the year 2000 in new, nontraditional areas such as tourism. The country will be in better shape.

We have already overcome the sacrifices of the basic economic decisions we made. I want to insist on this point: In the first two years of my administration, the cost of the economic reorganization program has already been passed on to Honduran citizens. Today the slate is clean; prices have been stabilized, economic growth is a reality. By keeping on this track, Honduras will have changed its destiny and entered this new competitive world of regional blocs. There will be hope for our nation—hope for a better future.

I want to tell all Hondurans that as president of the Republic I will probably have the opportunity to communicate and reach their homes on various occasions during the year, but I will not have another opportunity to draft a report of this nature, because in 1994 my address to the Honduran people will take place when a new president has already been freely elected. That is why I would like to reiterate to each of you my deepest gratitude for the honor of allowing me to be the Honduran president, my eternal gratitude, and most especially my affection and respect to each and every one of you.

Believe me, fellow citizens, none of my decisions has been intended to harm any Honduran. All my decisions, the easy and the difficult, were made with an awareness of my responsibility as president to give you and your children a better future.

Correction to Callejas Justifies Military Budget

PA2601174693

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "President Callejas Justifies Military Budget" published in the 26 January Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 11: Column one, paragraph one, sentence one make read: ...the maritime and island areas, fighting drug.... (correcting word)

Column two paragraph eleven, sentence one make read: ...administration of our island and maritime areas. (correcting word)

Nicaragua

Developments in Comptroller General Issue Continue

Commission Formed To Dismiss Potoy

PA2801172693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] At the request of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the National Assembly formed a special commission on 27 January to dismiss Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy.

National Assembly President Gustavo Tablada announced the creation of a commission of deputies formed by Francisco Anzoategui, Guillermo Chavarria, William Ramirez, and headed by socialist Deputy Alejandro Solorzano.

After receiving the letter from President Chamorro, the president of the National Assembly took steps during the Legislative Branch deliberations on the afternoon of 27

January, in accordance with the processes established in the internal regulations of that state branch.

Potoy Dismissed; Office Surrounded

PA2801230793 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The building at the National Palace where the Comptroller General's Office is located has been occupied by black beret troops, riot police, and soldiers. State security vehicles are surrounding the area. Here is Robert Alonso with more details:

[Alonso] Riot police have surrounded the Comptroller General's Office. They arrived at the National Palace after the National Assembly announced its decision to dismiss Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy. It is believed that Potoy could be detained at any moment.

State security agents arrived in a vehicle with tinted glass windows bearing license plate MW4116 and are currently surrounding the National Palace, where the Comptroller General's Office is located.

Comptroller General Potoy's dismissal was officially announced at 1500.

Potoy Remarks on Corruption

PA2901001893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] We have Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy on the line from the Comptroller General's Office. He says the attitude of the police and the Violeta Chamorro government is undemocratic and unconstitutional. Let us listen to Potoy's brief statements.

[Begin recording] [Potoy, in progress]...and fair so Nicaraguans can see that the best things are being done, that state properties are being efficiently used. In this case, we are sure which [words indistinct] now. [Words indistinct] I believe this marriage, this brotherhood, and this decision to merge the Violeta Chamorro government with the Sandinists has led to an increase in corruption. Everyone thinks they have to take advantage of the situation; they only have a few days left. This does not mean they are all corrupt, but there is much corruption here, which is quite different.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Potoy] Many people receive benefits. You know very well what is happening here. There are houses, buildings, and there are companies here that have been taken over illegally. There are buildings here that have been illegally taken over and these people lie there, living in a building that did not cost them a penny. They feel they own that building. You know this perfectly well. There are many such cases.

That is why we wanted to take action against corruption to help this government, which spoke of honesty. This government also said it wanted to be the most honest government ever, but when we decided to take action, people started disliking us.

Unfortunately, because of certain situations and circumstances in the case of Tony Ibarra, Engineer Antonio Lacayo became involved. We did not put him in that situation. Lacayo did not allow us to do our work in due time. The Comptroller General's Office took nearly 60 days to do the work. It gave time to other people to investigate and gave Tony Ibarra time to steal, steal, steal. These are the things we want to correct. If I was really subject to Lacayo, I would not dismiss him and I would not dismiss anyone he says I should not dismiss. He would have to tell me who to dismiss. [end recording]

Potoy spoke with us by telephone from the Comptroller General's Office.

Deputy Voices Support for Potoy

PA2901033993 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Deputy Humberto Castilla Matamoros by an unidentified reporter in Managua—live]

[Text] [Reporter] We will interview Deputy Humberto Castilla Matamoros, who was with Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy a few minutes ago. He will give us more details on what is happening.

As our special reporter Roger Alonso reported a few minutes ago, the National Palace, where the Comptroller General's Office is located, has been occupied by military forces. Military force is being used to expel the comptroller general, as in the days of Somoza and of Sandinism. The same thing is happening. As the saying goes: the same monkey with a different tail. That is what is happening. Potoy is being removed from his post by military force, the same way the National Assembly president was dismissed. As Alfredo Cesar said, tomorrow it could be a mayor, maybe the mayor of Managua, or anyone who is against this government, which has sided with the Sandinists.

Good afternoon, Mr. Castilla Matamoros. You told us you just arrived from the Comptroller General's Office, after being with Comptroller General Potoy. What is going on over there?

[Castilla Matamoros] Good afternoon. Thank you. We were leaving the Comptroller General's Office, accompanying Potoy. We went there to show him our support, accompany him, and assess the situation. We can confirm that there are many Lada police cars, patrol cars, black beret troops in trucks surrounding the building. There are many uniformed police in the building, and others who are dressed in civilian clothes, but whom we believe are members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS]. Their haircuts indicate that they are police. More proof of this is that when journalist Luis Mora, who was

with us, tried to get information from one of them they got upset, which confirmed they are EPS members.

Comptroller General Potoy has left the building. He was heading for his home, accompanied by his assistants, some friends, and several journalists. We are supporting him completely.

I take this opportunity to inform our peasants—whom I am sure are following the current political situation—of the arbitrary and hasty actions this government has taken. On 27 January Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo made Mrs. Chamorro sign the request for Potoy's dismissal. On 28 January the Sandinist bloc approved his dismissal, and the Comptroller General's Office was occupied by the military, just like the National Assembly was occupied.

Therefore, dear peasants, we see that it is time to scream and defend our rights. Please, we will have this opportunity in Juigalpa on 31 January. We will be there with Comptroller General Potoy. Vice President Virgilio Godoy, Alfredo Cesar, and Miriam Arguello have also confirmed they will be in Juigalpa. The people of Chontales, Juigalpa, and Zelaya will show our determination and tell Mrs. Chamorro that, just as we put her in power, we can remove her. We hope to see you all in Juigalpa on 31 January at 1000.

[Reporter] Potoy has been dismissed. In addition to the meeting on 31 January, in which you will show the Sandinist Government headed by Violeta Barrios that the people do not want her in the president's chair, what else will the Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement [MCSD]—which I think is still alive—do?

[Castilla] We, as the MCSD, are prepared to make some announcements on 31 January in Chontales, Juigalpa. On 28 January, I was in contact with members of the executive commission in Boaco, specifically with Emilio Alvarado. They had invited me to a meeting. They have prepared a program that we are going to announce during this rally in Juigalpa. We will make some very important announcements. On 28 January, we heard that the UNO political council, pardon me, I mean the UNO legislative wing leaders, were hosting a news conference to explain the need to call on the people to attend on 25 February 1993 a demonstration at the Plaza de la Republica in Managua. There we will scream our petition, our shout of: Enough is enough of this Sandinist government presided over by Violeta Barrios.

Rest assured that we are prepared, that we will not disappoint the Nicaraguan people. We do not want to say that we are warmongers, because we have never picked up a rifle, but we see that the people in the mountains have picked up weapons and they are determined to fight. We know that they do not want war and they appear to be waiting for the politicians, the civilian leaders to take action and solve this problem, which is worsening every day, thanks to Antonio Lacayo.

[Reporter] Dr. Castilla, when you say that on 25 February 1993 you all are going to say enough, does this mean that the opposition is tired and is going to ask for a new government, for Violeta's dismissal? Does this mean that our former enemy is the same as our current enemy? In other words, the Sandinists continue to rule in this country. The MCSD....[pauses] You, as a member of the National Opposition Union [UNO] Political Commission, will ask for Violeta's dismissal?

[Castilla] We are going to ask for Violeta's dismissal and not only as members of the MCSD. In my capacity as deputy for the region covering Boaco, Chontales, and Zelaya, and with other deputies for the past two years, we have been saying we are opposition. When the Chontales peasants blocked the highways and the mayors mediated and presented their demands, we did not make a mistake when we said that Humberto Ortega had to leave if we wanted peace in Nicaragua, that Antonio Lacayo—the super son-in-law—had to be set aside if we wanted peace in Nicaragua. Nobody listened to us; we made some changes in Chontales and Boaco, but we still have the same problem, which has worsened. That is why we are determined to continue fighting.

Now, the Nicaraguan people should be worried if they do not hear about a definite goal. Remember that, due to political strategy, we cannot announce all of the steps we are going to take. First of all, join us in the demonstrations; we will behave in a civic and peaceful manner to change the course of this country. Even our Cardinal Obando and the Bishops Conference have asked for this change.

[Reporter] Deputy Castilla, what stand will the UNO deputies take? What have you heard from the 44 UNO deputies about the dismissal of Comptroller General Potoy? The military has surrounded the National Palace, where the Comptroller General's Office is located. What do the deputies say? Are the mayors going to support Potoy?

[Castilla] The UNO wing leaders have just held a news conference where they voiced full support for Potoy and declared that the actions of the cogovernment, of the Sandinist government presided over by Violeta Barrios, are illegal and arbitrary. The deputies are in solidarity with Potoy and are meeting to discuss the measures they will take in the future with regard to the situation of the comptroller.

About 80 mayors met eight days ago in [word indistinct] to voice total support for Potoy. They suggested to the president that she not dismiss him. Approximately 60 mayors later held another meeting at the National Confederation of Professional Associations, where the comptroller went to thank them for the suggestion made to the president. Now we see that Antonio Lacayo ignored the mayoral petition; he does not care what the mayors think and this worsens the problem.

[Reporter] Dr. Castilla, you are a worthy representative of the people, of the peasants of Boaco, Matagalpa, in fact of the northern area, in view of your democratic stand and your support for the peasants. Lately, EPS

spokesmen have said they are going to put soldiers there. Actually, they have already deployed soldiers there. I just returned from the area and I noticed there are military contingents in northern Jinotega and Matagalpa. It is said that the Army is going to be sent there to control what they call the bands of thieves, which is what they call those people who have taken up arms again.

What have you heard about this? What are the people going to do about the Army going there to attack them? I even heard on 27 January that there will be compulsory military service in the country again. That report was denied on 28 January by Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, Army public relations chief. What is the situation in the north? It is public knowledge that the Army is going there to repress the peasants in the mountains.

[Castilla] It is true. There is a lot of military movement in the north. I was there two days ago and saw trucks filled with soldiers arriving in the area. We know this because many soldiers are in the area of Santo Domingo and El Ayote in Chontales. The Army is determined-....[pauses] General Humberto Ortega and his cohorts are determined to continue civil war in Nicaragua. Yes, I hear....[pauses] I am fully convinced that the peasants are taking up arms very quickly. They are using the same Sandinist rifles to defend themselves. They are not bands of criminals. They are members of the Nicaraguan Resistance who are trying to defend themselves, trying to prevent the slaughter that continues in the north.

We are willing to speak the truth and support the peasants. We do not want a war, but we do not want Gen. Ortega and his cohorts to continue sending EPS members to kill our peasants, our youths, to kill the Sandinist youths, who are also our people. These youths should not be sent to die in the mountains. They should stop and not obey these war orders of Humberto Ortega.

Stop! Do not wage war. You do not have to fight against the humble peasants, who only seek to defend themselves from being killed by villains, thieves, and armed members of cooperatives who want to defend their pinata like giveaway. Please, stop the killing. It is not necessary for so many youths to be killed in Nicaragua. This business of forcing youths to military service again is impossible. Nicaraguans know that they would rather hide than die in battle. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] Of course. Thank you, Dr. Humberto Castilla Matamoros, for your remarks on Radio Corporacion.

Chamorro on Child Trafficking, Lacayo, Rebels

PA2801134793 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with President Violeta Chamorro by unidentified reporter at a ceremony inaugurating a children's home in Managua; date not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Is the government willing to investigate the allegations of child trafficking?

[Chamorro] Why, of course. This trafficking of children cannot be. No child should leave the country except by legal means. How could anyone allow a child to leave otherwise? I do not think any mother would let her child go just like that, unless she sold it. This is horrible. A mother who sells her child is not a mother. Why did she have the child in the first place?

[Reporter] There has been no official reaction about the so-called illegal decision the comptroller general made about Antonio Lacayo.

[Chamorro] My attorneys and I are studying what will be done about this. Everyone is a prophet. Everyone in Nicaragua is saying that he is leaving, that I have replaced him, and this and that. Excuse me, my journalist friends, but these things will easily spread like wildfire.

[Reporter] There is no decision yet?

[Chamorro] No, there is no decision yet.

[Reporter] Do you agree with the comptroller's decision to remove the Presidency minister? Does he have the authority? How do you view this decision?

[Chamorro] Unfortunately, I am the only one with the authority to take such actions.

[Reporter] Have you spoken to President Clinton since you sent the letter?

[Chamorro] No, no, no. I have not spoken with him yet. I think President Clinton has as many problems as we do. It is very difficult for us to be able to communicate in such a short time. He is the leader of a democratic country, and I am in this country, which was more like a barrel of monkeys when I received it because there were so many problems. I have not lost hope, however, because I want to get in contact as soon as possible for your benefit.

[Reporter] The foreign minister said you and he were going to decide on certain changes in the foreign service. Is there any comment on that? Will there be any new ambassadors?

[Chamorro] Changes will be made. I have always said that no one is stuck with crazy glue—no ministers or vice ministers, no one. Only journalists are independent. Things must change; so some will be changed and others will stay.

[Reporter] Do you think you will make any changes at the Vatican? Mr. Palacios has...

[Chamorro, interrupting] Heavens, no. Do you think I would dare change the pope?

[Reporter] No, no. The Nicaraguan ambassador at the Vatican, Madame President.

[Chamorro] Goodness, gracious me! One must be sure and express one's self clearly now.

[Reporter] Of course. I meant the Nicaraguan ambassador at the Vatican.

[Chamorro] Allow me to repeat that there will be changes. There will be changes and you will learn of them in good time. We will announce them all to you, just as I announced the cabinet changes.

[Reporter] Will there be as many changes as in the cabinet, or not as many?

[Chamorro] I will answer your curiosity in good time.

[Reporter] What is your evaluation of the ultimatum issued by the Army to the rearmed rebels who continue fighting in the mountains?

[Chamorro] What do you mean by evaluation?

[Reporter] What is your opinion of it?

[Chamorro] Now, miss, I have repeatedly said that we will always give those who have taken up their weapons a certain time to lay them down again and return to civilian life. That is what I want, so allow me to take advantage of this radio interview to tell them, if by chance they are listening: My Nicaraguan friends who have taken up your weapons, your rifles, your machetes or whatever, please lay down your weapons so we can talk.

[Reporter] Do you think the four powers of government will be able to meet, as proposed by the National Assembly?

[Chamorro] At any moment.... [pauses] I have said I am not opposed to a meeting the powers of state.

[Reporter] Is there a date?

[Chamorro] No, there is no definite date yet, but I am not opposed to the idea. Let me say that I wanted to meet with the whole assembly, but they did not want to come.

[Reporter] The women who work along Bolivar Avenue are asking for a meeting with you. Would you be willing?

[Chamorro] Who? Bolivar Avenue?

[Reporter] Yes, the prostitutes.

[Chamorro] Oh, yes, poor girls. Well, they belong to the Government Ministry. You know that in a democratic country things are handled by the appropriate authorities.

[Reporter] Is it true that Julio Cardenas [presidential economic adviser] is your proposal to replace the comptroller.

[Chamorro] Well, I never! Would you believe that I am hearing this for the first time from you? Now, now, what more do you want?

Fire Destroys Part of Construction Ministry

PA2901011593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0020 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] We are going to provide you details of the fire taking place at the Construction and Transportation Ministry. Go ahead Raul Oviedo.

[Oviedo] All the Managua units of the Fire Prevention System and eight Fire Department units are working here to extinguish this huge fire, which has destroyed all the central offices of the Construction and Transportation Ministry. I should not say all of them but just all of the offices in the front part of the complex. Construction and Transportation Minister Pablo Vigil told us minutes ago that those offices housed all the blueprints for bridge and road projects. We must report that the fire has been put out. Minister Vigil said that, fortunately, the fire did not reach the area where the gasoline pumps are located, because that would have been a disaster. Here is what Minister Pablo Vigil said a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Vigil] This definitely affects the ministry because we were getting ready to begin a number of projects and many of the blueprints for those projects may have been destroyed. The area that was affected was the Highway Department, which deals with the blueprints and plans for road and bridge projects.

[Oviedo] Do you have an estimate of the losses?

[Vigil] No, it is too early to say. The building was totally lost. The building might cost about 1 million cordobas, perhaps more. The worse thing is, however, the loss of blueprints. This work is done by many people. It is very costly and takes a long time. This will definitely affect our investment plans for this year and the next few years. I hope this will not be too serious but we will confirm this after the fire has been totally extinguished. We will have a more precise evaluation on 29 January. For the time being, we think the problem is very serious, basically in the area of highways. The Highway Department, the [name indistinct] enterprise, and another consulting enterprise that deals with ports were located in the building.

[Oviedo] What started the fire?

[Vigil] We cannot say at this time. Experts will have to come. Employees had already gone home when the fire began. It might have been caused by some electrical appliance that was left on. There were a lot of files and blueprints in that building and a spark could have easily begun the fire. You must remember that three or four years ago there was a similar fire at the ministry and it was started by a coffee pot that was left on in an office where there were a lot of papers. Fortunately, fire fighters have gotten the fire under control and the fire did not spread to the fuel pumps, which were completely full. It would have been disastrous if the fire had spread to that area. [end recording]

National Assembly Convenes First Session

PA2801170393 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Eighty-one deputies, constituting a majority, convened the first session of the ninth legislature of the National Assembly. The minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 10 January were approved; therefore, the Assembly has returned to normal after nearly five months of interruption.

The first regular session of the ninth legislature of the National Assembly was held in an expectant atmosphere. Certain members of the Assembly described the meeting as one that recognized the leadership. The National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies entered the hall following the call to order by the new leadership and occupied their respective seats. The board of directors verified that 81 deputies made a quorum.

Deputy Alfredo Cesar occupied his seat in the Assembly for the first time since 1990. He previously held positions on the board of directors, first as secretary and later as president of the Assembly. Deputy Cesar apparently does not like his seat; he was obviously not very confortable. He was also unhappy, probably because during his recent visit to the United States he had failed in his attempts to meet with the U.S. secretary of state and he had been unable to participate in the Univision "Themes and Debates" program.

The board of directors then approved the minutes of the previous meetings. Deputy Roberto Urroz, as acting coordinator of the UNO wing, spoke to challenge the parliamentary session. This stand was contradicted by all of the UNO deputies who ratified the legality of the current leadership with their presence at the session and their participation in the election. The minutes of the 9 January session in which the current leadership was elected were approved by 48 votes in favor, 30 abstentions, and three votes against.

[Begin recording, Sandinist Deputy Sergio Ramirez Mercado] I think this is a very significant step in legitimizing the leadership. I would say this is all we needed to legitimize the leadership; all we needed was the approval of the minutes that recorded the elections were held with a verified quorum of 82 representatives. There were different stands in the voting; some were in favor, others against, and there were abstentions. All of this has been duly recorded. [end recording]

Dr. Miriam Arguello harshly attacked the Sandinist wing. The 33 UNO deputies then abandoned the hall in an effort to stop the session. This failed, however, because the Assembly continued to meet with a quorum of 47 deputies. Deputy Nicolas Bolanos requested a verification of the quorum.

The deputies approved the minutes of the 10 January installation of the leadership and the first resolution to comply with the rulings of the Supreme Court of Justice. The Assembly formally declare nul the decisions adopted since 2 September.

[Begin recording, Deputy Frank Duarte, Assembly first secretary] The laws, declarations, and resolutions that are approved by the National Assembly during the current legislature must be numbered successively from the numbering sequence in use as of 1 September 1992 in the city of Managua. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

The board of directors reported on the audit of the previous administration's management of funds.

[Begin recoding, Deputy Gustavo Tablada, president of the National Assembly] A decision has already been made. Contacts are being made with the appropriate firm so that it will proceed as soon as possible to carry out this very delicate, serious, objective, and impartial task, in view of the seriousness that this entails and the repercussions this may have in the country. [end recording]

The leadership then reported on the establishment of the permanent commissions. The pienary began discussions of very important laws for the country, including the draft on personal identification.

FSLN To Head 8 National Assembly Commissions

PA2901042293 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will head eight of the 17 National Assembly commissions. It was officially reported that eight of the 17 commissions will be headed by FSLN deputies, which could increase if the Cesarist [followers of former National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar] deputies refuse to head the four commissions that were assigned to them. One of them, the Labor Affairs Commission, will be headed by Deputy Roberto Moreno.

The FSLN will head the Justice Commission; the Environment and Natural Resources Commission; the Economic, Finance, and Budget Affairs Commission; the Communications and Transportation Commission; the Energy and Construction Commission; the Human Rights and Ethnic Affairs Commission; the Drug Commission, and the Woman's Commission.

The Center Group will head the Defense and Government Commission, the Foreign Affairs Commission, the Production Commission, the Population and Community Development Commission, and the Central American Integration Commission.

It was reported that if the National Opposition Union deputies do not take charge of the other three commissions assigned to them, they will be assigned to FSLN deputies.

Officials Cited on Rearmed Groups in North

PA2801183893 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Fidelina Suarez M.]

[Text] The consequences of the war are still being felt in certain parts of the nation, particularly in the north where in the past weeks armed groups have stepped up their activities. These groups possess all types of weapons, 30,000 of which the Special Disarmament Brigade [BED] has not recovered.

Military personnel and civilian delegates of the Government Ministry agree that farmers are the most affected by the instability in the north. According to official reports, at least 10 people have died in that area since the beginning of the year.

In 1992, combined Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and police troops initiated patrol operations in mountain areas, while the BED continued its task of collecting weapons. To the relief of many, 1.6 million rounds of ammunition will not end up in the wrong hands, as these are now held by the BED.

Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock gave LA PRENSA details of the weapons confiscated up until 31 December.

The following were seized by the BED: approximately 43,000 rifles, 12,856 grenades and missiles, 4,184 rockets, and 6,197 mines.

In addition, 4,900 kg of explosives, four communication equipment sets, and 47 pistols were confiscated. Nevertheless, Wheelock believes that are at least 30,000 weapons remain to be collected.

Despite the constant criminal activity in the northern area, sporadic groups come to the BED to turn in their rifles. On 20 January, three men belonging to the gang led by "El Guapote" surrendered their weapons in Yali.

Augusto Lopez, Government Ministry delegate in Yali, confirmed in an interview with LA PRENSA that "the people here are getting used to living in a constant state of anxiety; they are out in the fields trying to plant their crops."

According to Lopez, patrols by the combined troops have generated some trust in the producers. These producers, however, continue being affected by the presence of the armed groups, who either raid the farms or show up looking for food to survive.

"Lately, these people have been robbing," Lopez said. Commander Roberto Gonzalez, EPS 6th Military Division, agreed with this statement. Gonzalez said on 24 January that the medical staff and health workers in La Dalia, Rancho Grande, and Waslala have threatened to leave due to the insecurity in the region.

Since the negotiations concluded with these groups in 1992, it was generally accepted that those who remained armed were criminals, as was stated by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo during his tour to Pantasma.

Lacayo labelled the rearmed men as "plunderers, armed civilians, but not contras, recontras, or recompas."

Currently the main refuge of these groups is the Quilali area, where a large number of rearmed men who have abandoned their regular activities have regrouped.

Wheelock, head of EPS Public Relations in Managua, said that poverty has had an influence on these groups that are trying to survive. "Their weapon has become, for them, their machete," Wheelock said.

Wheelock said that from 22 December to 18 January, 34 rearmed men have been killed and 24 were injured. According to the estimated number of armed men, there are 200 organized in 12 groups in Esteli, Somoto, and Nueva Segovia; 250 organized in 11 groups in Chontales, Boaca; and 180 in 13 groups that operate in Matagalpa and Jinotega.

"These are the ones we have faced in combat, they (the rearmed) against us," the armed institution's spokesman said.

Other crimes accounted for in Wheelock's office indicate that during that period 13 vehicles were attacked in Regions 1, 2, and 5, while six where attacked in Region 6.

According to Wheelock, these groups do not represent a danger to the nation. Nevertheless, he said that if they do not disarm, despite the operations being carried out, they will be greatly reduced by this year. He said there is a determination to bring stability to the region so that the small and medium farmers can produce without problems.

Leonte Amador, a small producer from Jinotega, told LA PRENSA that since the 1980's the northern area has always suffered the most.

"During the war we had to play up to the contras and to the EPS. If you helped one side, the other side came after you. Now we are worst off because some of those armed groups threaten to kidnap us if we do not meet their demands," Amador said.

Amador said that the farmers must produce this year. "We have been in a very bad economic situation for several years. It is very important for the northern region to recover its leadership as the most productive area of Nicaragua," he said.

EPS Denies Reactivation of Military Service

PA2901043293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Army Spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock has flatly denied allegations of the former military service being reactivated. Col. Wheelock said the Army has enough soldiers to face the rebel forces committing acts of violence. These acts of violence include murders, robberies, kidnappings, and other

crimes against citizens of different ideologies. To handle these groups, the military organized the "All for Stability" operation, a two-phase campaign consisting of counterinsurgency work and skirmishes.

We are asking the armed rebels to gather in the established security zones and to surrender their weapons, stated Col. Wheelock. The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] has inflicted 46 casualties on the so-called recontras.

[Begin Col. Wheelock recording] [passage indistinct] first to create the impression we are headed toward a war, something that is totally false. [words indistinct] the problem of war, instead, some people are saying (?we are going to reactivate) the military service. The Nicaraguan Army does not need recruits. It is a volunteer Army. It is absolutely false that we are going to resume the military service. These rebel forces are inconsistent. They say they want talks with the government and that they do not want clashes with the Army. But they are carrying out crimes against humanity and are (?stealing) military vehicles.

We have had minor skirmishes with these groups that consist of 10, five, or four men. There have been no major military operations. We have carried out small military operations against groups that are breaking the law and killing peasants, former Nicaraguan Resistance members, Sandinist National Liberation Front members, and National Opposition Union members. The government has established areas for these small groups to [words indistinct] they have been given time to enter the security zones. We have exerted military pressure on these groups to force them to enter those security zones.

The EPS' principal mission is to provide stability in the countryside so that farmers can start producing and banks can start granting credits. [passage indistinct]. [passage omitted containing previously covered material]

There are certain right-wing groups who want the EPS to [word indistinct] the [word indistinct] group and this is a mistake. This is a mistake because these groups have support in the small areas where they operate. The results would be the creation of a front, this would be an error. We do not want this to occur. [words indistinct] is a die-hard group of murderers, thieves, and rapists. We will pursue them, not as a military operation but within the framework of the law. This will provide security to the countryside and to the peasants.

We have organized a two-phase campaign to provide security in the countryside. The first phase [words indistinct] this year in which [words indistinct] is accompanied by government programs at municipal levels and at [word indistinct] levels. There is a great deal of poverty and a great need for jobs. We are trying to reduce these needs in this first stage. [passage indistinct] In the past month, the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen [UNAG] has lost 23 members in Matagalpa Department alone. In the past year, UNAG has lost 350 members [words indistinct]. This is a tragedy. [words indistinct] this does not mean that the Army is going to attack them at security zones. Those who are at the security zones will be [words indistinct] to talk with the government. The others who are committing violations are going to be hunted down, not because they are recontras but because they are criminals. [end recording]

Former Contras Invade 5 Farms in Matagalpa

PA2901040393 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] It has been reported from the city of Matagalpa that more than 100 former contras have invaded five farms with a total area of 8,000 manzanas in that department. These five farms, which were confiscated from Jose Somoza, Heriberto Reyes, and Domingo Calero by the revolutionary government, were occupied by some 1,000 members of the Nicaraguan Resistance in 1990, who began selling the land. Rich land owners bought the lands, including Edgardo Chavarria and Reinaldo Valenzuela.

These 100 former contras, headed by Dimas [Francisco Valdivia], invaded the five farms on 27 January. They immediately called authorities, demanding that the lands be returned to the previous owners, a group of peasants, who formed a cooperative when the lands were confiscated in the early years of the Sandinist revolution.

* Survey Reveals Major Concerns for 1993

93CA0054C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Dec 92 pp 1, 5

[Article by Noel Irias]

[Text] Heading the list of what the Nicaraguan people want from the government is a solution for unemployment, now afflicting 60 percent of the population, and action to improve families' economic positions in 1993, a survey the polling firm M & R conducted for BARRICADA revealed.

The poll of 1,200 citizens in Managua, Leon, and Masaya shows that 20.3 percent of the persons polled want Violeta Chamorro's government to initiate new job programs, 9.9 percent want better wages, and 7.2 percent say their top priority is to obtain work in 1993.

The nation's stability occupies a priority position among the Nicaraguan people's aspirations. A desire for peace and prosperity was the hope of 25.5 percent of those polled.

Another of the Nicaraguan people's basic demands is for attention to be paid to the nation's social crisis, reflected in the decline in social services, and the increase in poverty, malnutrition, the numbers of children at risk, and soaring crime rates.

Of the people interviewed, 14.9 percent called for reform schools for street children; 11.5 percent for housing construction; 6.2 percent for medications and hospitals; and 4.4 percent hope that in 1993 there will be fewer street peddlers—most of whom are children.

The people's lack of interest in politics and the National Assembly crisis has continued. In November an M & R poll indicated that 85 percent of the people were not interested in the parliamentary conflict.

This latest survey shows that now 18 percent of the people want stability in state powers.

People Want No More Corruption

Nicaragua's polarization is reflected in the expectations of a divided electorate: 12.6 percent want the government to continue running the country; 8.4 percent want a change in policy in 1993; and 5.9 percent want protection for the workers. The year 1992 was one of corruption scandals involving top government officials, headed by the former vice minister of the presidency, Antonio Ybarra. Now the issue is a major concern among the voters who ranked this demand—"no stealing from the people"—sixth (7.3 percent) among 25 possible options.

Supporting this demand for honesty in public administration were: housewives (10.4 percent); workers (7.5 percent); professionals (7.2 percent); and the unemployed (7.0 percent).

Dissatisfaction about the tax burden the state imposes on the citizens in the midst of the economic crisis was expressed by 4.5 percent of the persons polled. Technical workers are the group most in favor of a tax cut (7.0 percent), followed by shopkeepers (5.8 percent); workers (4.8 percent); and housewives (4.8 percent).

Cesar and Godoy Both at the Bottom

The nation's polarization is clearly reflected in people's perception of well-known personalities in 1992.

The popularity of the mayor of Managua, Arnoldo Aleman, increased. He was rated as 1992's most outstanding personality by 18.4 percent of the people polled.

However, Aleman also received one of the highest negative ratings. Perhaps because of his association with Somozism, the constant corruption scandals and abuses, 5.3 percent rated him as one of the most unpopular people in 1992.

A political analyst attributed the mayor's growing popularity to the fact that "he controls almost 10 percent of the national budget. Although his political positions are similar to those of Godoy and Cesar, they are not so popular."

The poll shows that both Alfredo Cesar and Virgilio Godoy, the politicians closest to Aleman, are disliked by the voters. The two men closely disputed the title of Most Unpopular in 1992: Cesar with a rating of 15.7 percent and Godoy with 15.3 percent.

Lacayo More Popular Than the President

There has been a loss of confidence in the people in charge of the government. President Violeta Chamorro suffered a strong drop in popularity in comparison with polls published earlier in 1992. The chief executive's approval rating was fifth (8.1 percent), but her negative rating was very similar (7.0), placing her fourth on the list.

The minister of the presidency, Antonio Lacayo, has a more positive image than his "boss." His popularity rating (11.6 percent) placed him second among the year's most popular officials, while he was sixth on the list of unpopular politicians (4.6 percent).

This trend revealed by the M & R poll agrees with the results of a survey conducted by CID-Gallup between 23 November and 2 December, in which the government's approval rating was barely 19 percent.

Professionals Prefer Daniel [Ortega]

The Sandinist Front's secretary general, Comandante Daniel Ortega, was third on the list of most popular politicians (9.6 percent) but, reflecting Nicaragua's political polarization, his unfavorable rating was 8.1 percent.

In the CID-Gallup poll, 20 percent said they would vote for Daniel Ortega, topping Aleman's 18 percent.

Professionals are the social group with the highest preference for Ortega, with 13.3 percent, followed by cab drivers (12.8 percent); the unemployed (12.3 percent); and technical workers (9.6 percent).

Arnoldo Aleman is popular among workers (21.4 percent); housewives (21.2 percent); and shopkeepers (20.2 percent).

In addition, the Gallup poll indicates that the majority believe Sandinism is more likely to ensure the nation's stability.

Other public figures rated among the most popular in 1992 were: Ana Sofia Pereira (11.0 percent); Cardinal Miguel Obando (7.3 percent); and Sergio Ramirez (4.4 percent).

Professionals Do Not Want Cesar

Alfredo Cesar, the president of the National Assembly and a leading figure in the confrontation between the legislative and judicial branches, was rated the most unpopular person in 1992, with a 15.5 percent negative rating.

He received these negative ratings from the following occupational categories: professionals, 19.3 percent; technical workers, 13.6 percent; workers, 21.4 percent; shopkeepers, 17.5 percent; housewives, 12.1 percent; the unemployed, 19.3 percent; cab drivers, 15.4 percent; and students, 12.2 percent.

Virgilio Godoy, vice president of Nicaragua, followed closely on his heels, with a negative rating of 15.3 percent.

By occupational category, Godoy's negatives were: professionals, 10.8 percent; technical workers, 16.9 percent;

shopkeepers, 13.5 percent; workers, 15.5 percent; housewives, 16.2 percent; the unemployed, 19.3 percent; cab drivers, 17.9 percent; and students, 11.3 percent.

Sandinists Strong in Leon

In the city of Leon, where the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] won the mayor's seat in the latest elections, Daniel Ortega won 13.8 percent of the votes for most outstanding person of the year, with Sergio Ramirez getting 6.5 percent.

Ortega was chosen this year's most popular person by 10.9 percent of the people polled in the markets, 10.1 percent of the lower income group, and 9.7 percent of the lower middle income groups.

The Sandinist leader won 30 percent of the preferences among people 30 years old and older.

Preferences by Occupation

Among professionals, the most popular people are Antonio Lacayo (20.5 percent) and Daniel Ortega (13.3 percent).

Among technical workers, Arnoldo Aleman is most popular, followed by Antonio Lacayo (14.0 percent).

Aleman is preferred by 21.2 percent of housewives, and 10.4 percent prefer Cardinal Obando.

Among cab drivers, Lacayo won 17.9 percent, and Ortega 12.9 percent.

Shopkeepers also voted for Aleman (20.2 percent) and Antonio Lacayo (10.8 percent).

Workers followed the same trend, with 21.4 percent supporting the mayor [Aleman] and 13.4 percent the minister of the presidency [Lacayo].

Daniel Ortega was rated most popular by 28 percent of the military.

The sexy Ana Sofia Pereira swept the ratings among students; 27.8 percent considered her the most popular person of 1992.

Young People Prefer Ana Sofia

Persons under the age of 20 voted for Ana Sofia Pereira (32.5 percent), and for Violeta Chamorro (9.1 percent).

People in their twenties voted for Ana Sofia [Miss Latin America] (16.3 percent); Aleman (14.9 percent); and Lacayo (14.6 percent).

People in their thirties preferred the mayor (19.7 percent) and the minister of the presidency (12.2 percent).

In their forties, people voted for Aleman (20.1 percent) and Lacayo (14.0 percent).

Persons over 50 chose Aleman (22.2 percent) and Cardinal Obando (13.5 percent).

What Do You Want the Government To Do in 1993?

Option Selected	Percentage
Start new jobs programs	20.5
Keep on running the country	12.6
Build housing and hospitals	11.5
Think about wages	9.9
Change policy	8.4
Not steal from the people	7.3
Fewer street peddlers	4.4
Give the people what they need	3.6
Give people an opportunity to study	2.3
Not deceive the people	2.2
Improve the nation's economic situation	2.2
Reduce taxes	2.0
Rigid government	1.2

M & R survey.

What Is Your Greatest Aspiration For 1993?

Option Selected	Percentage
Peace and prosperity	25.5
Stability in state powers	18.0
Reform schools for street children	14.9
To win the lottery	10.3
To have a job	7.2
To have medications and hospitals	6.2
To protect the workers	5.9
Tax cuts	4.5
To have food and health	3.2
To live better	2.3
Stricter police	2.0
Change in the system	1.9
To travel	1.9
Improved salaries	1.6
Economic stability	1.6
Dialogue among all social sectors	1.3
To have an opportunity to study	1.2

M & R survey.

Technical Polling Data

This survey was conducted by M & R Consultants at BARRICADA's request between 4 and 16 December. A total of 1,388 citizens were polled, including in Managua (905 people), Leon (246), and Masaya (234). Of these 619 were men (44.6 percent), and 769 were women (55.4 percent). The poll's estimated margin of error is 3 percent.

The opinion of the following age groups was sought: 16 to 19 (77 people), 5.5 percent of the survey group; 20 to

29 (295), 21.3 percent; 30 to 39 (451), 32.5 percent; 40 to 49 (299), 21.5 percent; and over 50 (252), 18.2 percent of the respondents.

The persons polled came from four social sectors: middle income (340 people), representing 31.3 percent of the total; lower middle (434), 31.3 percent; and lower income (338), 24.4 percent).

The middle income level includes all urban areas grouped in sections or districts that have all types of public services, and whose family income is estimated to exceed 3,500 cordobas.

The lower middle group consists of traditional neighborhoods ["barrios"] and districts that have most public services, and whose family income is estimated to range between 1,500 and 3,500 cordobas.

The lower income group consists of "barrios" lacking infrastructure and public services, and whose estimated family income is equal to or less than 1,499.9 cordobas.

Surveys were also conducted in the Oriental, Roberto Huembes, and Ivan Montenegro markets in Managua, and in the markets of Leon and Masaya (276 people). These surveys amounted to 19.9 percent of the total number polled.

In each city 20 percent of the interviews were conducted in markets, and the remaining 80 percent were distributed among the three economic levels.

In terms of occupation, 83 professionals were interviewed (6 percent); 272 technical workers (19.6 percent); 223 shopkeepers (16.1 percent); 187 workers (13.5); 364 housewives (26.2); 57 unemployed (4.1); 21 military (1.5); 39 cab drivers (2.8); 115 students (8.3); and 27 persons in other occupations, equivalent to 1.9 percent of the survey group.

* FSLN 'Crisis' During Past Year Viewed

93CA0054A Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 117 24 Dec 92-7 Jan 93 p 4

[Commentary by Erick Aguirre] [txt
[Text] In the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], 1992 definitively marked the acceptance, for the first time in many years, of a premise that until a short time ago had been tacit: the FSLN is facing a crisis.

This crisis might concern either its political identity or its adaptation to a national and international context of abrupt and constant changes, or it might be a crisis involving both of these.

Political commentators believe it likely that the Sandinist Front may be the party experiencing this general crisis most dramatically.

The FSLN's clearly decisive influence on Nicaraguan society has been made evident during its two years in the opposition.

In 1992 one feature of the FSLN that seemed to have been overlooked or misinterpreted while it was in power was revealed—its profoundly social nature reflected in its popular influence, and its status as an essential social force in any attempt to deal with, interpret, or resolve national problems.

This status has made the FSLN, especially this year, the target of social criticisms concerning the nation's most crucial problems. These are problems that the government has had to deal with in one way or another: property ownership, privatization, union struggles, political crises in the National Assembly and their spillovers into the Executive and the Judiciary, as well as matters relating to the current role of the Army and the police.

Sandinist action on the national scene this year, either involving individual leaders or through broader or more scattered social movements, has been distinguished by a notable degree of disputes, to the point where the differing positions of its top leaders have generated criticism on the part of the most diverse sectors of Nicaraguan society.

Still, beyond rhetorical disputes in the speeches of top Sandinist leaders, the major manifestations of the FSLN crisis, the majority of the analysts agree, are of a programmatic, organizational, and leadership nature. Its central axis, at least during 1992, has been the party's relationship with the government.

The first two factors (programmatic and organizational issues) are decidedly related to this party's natural heterogeneity. To date these effects have been perceived in its scope and its relations with the majority of related organizations.

On one side, the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] has become, through its increasingly visible autonomy, almost another party, a party of agricultural producers, with its own economic strength, its own organizational strength, and its own special interests.

After some dramatic struggles with the FSLN leadership, the FNT [National Workers Front] has moved to a plane of such independence that some analysts have already seen a clear distinction between the FNT and those who traditionally symbolize the FSLN, that is, its political leaders.

In 1992 the FSLN leadership almost established alliances with those who in the past were its union arm. Today the differences, both in the leadership itself and between this leadership and the FNT, are much clearer.

Some key points in this demarcation process were the meetings and documents prepared jointly by the FSLN leadership and the government. Moreover, the FNT, UNAG, and the political leaders of Sandinism all have their share of economic power, which they won in the difficult and still unresolved privatization process. The other organizations (to mention the most important ones)—Communal Movement, the Women's, Youth

Associations, etc.—are debating and heatedly challenging, not defending, the political actions of their top leaders during this much less coherent year.

All this logically leads to a recollection of many points of dissatisfaction and programmatic concerns that, at the First Sandinist Congress, were put on hold to be debated at some future time.

Some people attribute Sandinism's programmatic crisis to the worldwide crisis of the Left, which according to rumor lacks articulated alternatives to respond to the consolidated power of neoliberalism. However, what is doing the most damage to the FSLN right now is its enormous leadership crisis. While the members of its leadership act and speak to the grassroots, hinting at disputes of a political nature, the grassroots are being diluted in disagreement and disarray, and are being left without an effective social and civil defense program enabling them to survive the national crisis.

The muted power struggles among Sandinist leaders during the past year have led them to neglect and deliberately ignore the great organizational and social mobilization potential that has always characterized this party. Some people in the grassroots feel that if their leaders invested at least 70 percent of their political efforts in the civil and social defense organizations instead of in political clashes and leadership disputes, the FSLN's chances in the next elections would be much more solid.

Many people believe that 1993 must be the year of the rebirth of the consolidation of Sandinism's social and civil organization, this time on a more pluralistic, integrated, and nonsectarian basis.

* Problems in Worker-Owned Plant Described

93CA0054B Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 115 10-17 Dec 92 p 11

[Text] If asked which Nicaraguan grain factory has the longest tradition, the immediate answer would be "El Caracol." Many Nicaraguans would give the same response, as El Caracol's products are eaten by most of the population.

The director of El Caracol Industries, S.A., Armando Jose Bermudez, predicts for the well-known plant a "long, difficult future, full of thorns." This evaluation, which is optimistic in spite of itself, is a sign of what is in store for the plant's 115 employees.

The workers took control of the plant early in the 1980's, and used its reserve stock to operate during the time of the Sandinist government; innovation was then valued over repairing machinery. However, the plant had no production boom, and in 1984 it stopped exporting for lack of capital investments.

El Caracol was one of the first 16 plants that the UNO [United Nicaraguan Opposition] government tried to return to its owners; the workers opposed this, as it meant layoffs and rescinding the collective bargaining agreement.

In 1980 the plant was worth $450,000; it is now valued at $350,000.

On 5 June 1992, a three-way agreement was reached among the workers, the Campos family, and Cornap [National Corporation of the Public Sector], which called for transferring the company to the workers, with the condition that the former owners would retain the Lobo Jack Discotheque, whose value exceeds that of the plant.

The assets were revalued and 30 percent of the 130 shares were distributed to the amusement center workers, and 70 percent to the factory workers. Each share is valued at 2,000 cordobas. The workers will have to pay off the value of the company within a 10-year period.

The union's secretary general, Ronaldo Rodriguez, said they recently purchased raw materials worth approximately 800,000 cordobas; however, there are still some tax and social security obligations pending.

El Caracol's director said most of the plant's operating losses occurred in 1991-92, with an average of 2,000 cordobas. Monthly production is 150,000 pounds, and normally between 135,000 and 140,000 pounds are sold. However, in 1992 the company began a recovery process.

The products offered, which include corn and corn products, chocolate, oats, ground coffee, barley, squash seed, and coffee represent 80 percent of total sales.

According to the information provided, the former owners' involvement in the privatization process created a union conflict, with 15 workers supporting the actions of the former owners. Since 1990 these people have been collecting their salaries without going to work, receiving a total payment of about 400,000 cordobas; this has created losses for the company and a cut in benefits.

In order to resolve the problem, this year they decided to serve them with a legal order to return to work; the latest order was issued in November, but they did not return.

"At first we were able to manage to pay the salaries of the 15 people who were supporting the former owners. At the present time we are barely earning 581 cordobas; we want the company to move ahead, so we are not demanding anything more. I am afraid that if we oppose paying their salaries they might take over the plant, but we believe the problems are going to be worked out," said Flor Gutierrez, who has worked at El Caracol for 12 years.

Amid the processing plant's smells and grains and stifling heat, Pedro Joaquin Leiva said: "We are getting ready for the future," despite the cut in benefits, which they believe is necessary to reduce costs and to cope with the problem of litigation with the 15 workers.

The workers' ambitious plans include renovating machinery and exporting cereal products; they have already sent samples to Central American countries and to the United States, with excellent results.

The only thing they need to do to accomplish this is an economic boost.

Speaking of these problems, the director, Bermudez, said a number of organizations are interested in investing, as they realize the plant can be profitable. As an example, he mentioned the Italian firm, Ragim, which wants to invest $1 million in machinery, parts, and raw materials in 1993.

To achieve that objective, the union leader said they hope the government will give El Caracol the same treatment it has given to other private sectors, as investment helps to generate higher levels of sales and production, at reasonable prices, with quality and good presentation that will enable them to compete in both national and international markets.

* Cardenal's Letters on Property Issue Reported

* Recommendations Made

93CA0047A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Nov 92 pp 1, 12

[First of two articles by Jose Davila: "Sandinists Distrust Their Leaders"]

[Text] Another scandal has hit the ranks of the Sandinist Front.

For nine months, former Jesuit priest Fernando Cardenal, member of the Sandinist Assembly and one of the figures who has used the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] in the past, has, in order to make political hay out of the religious feelings of the Nicaraguan people, been secretly questioning anything having to do with the management of that political party's assets and properties.

A series of letters, including one from the FSLN Assembly and its national leadership, show the malaise surrounding the Sandinist leaders' handling of the alleged holdings of the FSLN, handling questioned by Cardenal since it is not governed by transparent administrative zones.

He also criticizes the fact that none of the Sandinist leaders has filed a statement of probity in which they are to notify the government of their holdings.

Cardenal also makes himself the spokesman for "the distrust that has arisen among many intermediate and grass-roots leaders" concerning the FSLN's honest image.

Nothing Public

Despite Cardenal's appeal to his leaders that his challenge not be made public, LA PRENSA received a copy of all documents which we are now revealing to the Nicaraguan people, who have the right to be informed.

While the FNT [National Workers Front] has opted for the line of anarchy and a lack of labor discipline, and while General Humberto Ortega tries against all odds to find a place in this democratic phase, the FSLN as a party structure continues its apparently irreversible erosion.

With two members of its national leadership studying abroad, with a so-called "moderate" trying to moderate it, and with the criticism of its own intellectuals, the former minister of education now appears to challenge one of the most sensitive issues of the Sandinist Front: its assets and properties.

This sensitivity stems from the wide-ranging discussion in society about what actually happened with Laws 85, 86, and 88 passed during the two months of transition, when many Sandinist leaders became owners of government property or property that had been seized.

Background

On 28 and 29 March, the FSLN Assembly held a session in El Crucero including a six-hour discussion of ethics in the FSLN as a result of the party's treasurer's report.

Several Assembly members apparently asked top leaders to make the list of FSLN properties and their alleged owners public, but the treasurer reportedly refused to do so for reasons of secrecy.

Letter From Cardenal

Three days after the meeting, Cardenal sent a letter dated 1 April to all members of the Sandinist Assembly and its National Leadership, stating that he agrees that the treasurer's report did not make public the names of FSLN enterprises and owners.

"Nevertheless," the letter states, "this argument must not be used to obscure certain facts."

Cardenal makes two points: "There does not truly exist any patrimony of the FSLN. Its properties are administered in bits and pieces by various members of the national Directorate itself or other leaders, without any standards, mechanisms, or uniform procedures."

He continues: "This situation leads one to think quite rightly that FSLN property is included in the patrimony of individuals and confused with the latter's remaining belongings. There is consequently a danger that the benefits may not be entirely transferred to the party."

The other fact mentioned is "that management of the party's patrimony is in the hands of political leaders who also have other assigned responsibilities, as a result of which they should not be diverted by financial matters. It is to be feared that in such cases, either the asset will

suffer or there will be neglect of the main political function, or, more frequently, that the same person may not have both the qualities of a shrewd politician and a wise businessman."

Recommendations

In his letter to Assembly members, Cardenal makes five recommendations which can be summed up as follows:

1) that ALL PROPERTY of the FSLN be brought together under the REAL AND DIRECT administration of the treasurer and a body of experts as trustees;

2) that these trustee posts be incompatible with political posts;

3) that the administration of Sandinist property be based on the laws of countries where it is located, in accordance with sound accounting practices, that irregularities be corrected, and that audits be made. He condemns any "illegalities" and "obscure operations";

4) that an FSLN BUDGET be drawn up including ALL revenue and expenditures; and

5) an assistance fund be set up to provide advice to FSLN professionals who are now suffering from extreme poverty. [words in all capital letters as published in original document]

Letter to Ortega

Five months and eleven days after the letter dated 11 September 1991, failing to receive any response from anyone, Fernando Cardenal wrote to Major Daniel Ortega, telling him, in the first paragraph, that:

"I am enclosing a copy of the letter which I sent to you and every member of the National Directorate of the FSLN on 1 April."

He makes the following claim in the first paragraph: "I am sending another copy of the letter because on the previous occasion, neither you nor any comrade on the National Directorate responded to or made the slightest comment about my letter."

"The issue continues to be a very delicate and highly topical one because, based on my latest information, no progress has been made on what was mandated by the Sandinist Assembly on 28 and 29 March concerning the property of the FSLN and the role of the treasurer vis-a-vis that property."

Ortega Responds

Two weeks later, on 25 September, Daniel Ortega responded. However, one month and one week after Ortega's response, on 30 October, Cardenal wrote once again to the members of the Sandinist Assembly explaining why he was doing what he was doing and stating certain demands.

(Tomorrow we will publish the contents of the last two communications revealing the most recent crisis in the Sandinist Party.)

* Ortega's Reaction

93CA0047B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Nov 92 pp 1, 20

[Second of two articles by Jose Davila]

[Text] Following Fernando Cardenal's letter to Major Daniel Ortega on 11 September complaining about the fact that the latter had not replied to his proposal of 1 April questioning the handling of FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] assets, Ortega's response on 25 September was laconic:

"Esteemed Father Cardenal:

"In response to your concern about FSLN assets and the treasurer's role regarding such assets, I wish to inform you that this task has been entrusted to the treasurer of the FSLN, Major Henri Ruiz, to whom I have passed on the suggestions you made in your letter of 1 April and who will issue his report in due time."

At the close of the single paragraph, Ortega extended "Fraternal greetings," in contrast with Cardenal's closure to his letter of 11 September: "With a fraternal embrace."

Second Letter

Apparently annoyed, not only at the brevity of Ortega's letter, but also by a certain evasiveness, Cardenal sent a second letter to the members of the Sandinist Assembly on 30 October.

Cardenal decided to make his letter to FSLN Assembly members a repeat of his 1 April missive, enclosing a copy of the letter he had sent to Ortega, with a copy of Ortega's response.

Cardenal Emphasizes Meeting

After the greeting, "Esteemed comrades," the first paragraph reads as follows:

"I am sending you several letters in order to help you make up your own minds about the regular meeting which FSLN bylaws state we must hold before the end of the year."

He then reviews the chronology of his own letters:

"I shall briefly review the matter before us. On the final night of the regular meeting of the Sandinist Assembly of 28 and 29 March of this year and at the conclusion of the Ethics Committee report, we discussed at length the issues of FSLN assets, the statement of integrity that must be made by leaders responsible for managing party assets, the role of the treasurer, and so on.

"Three days after that meeting, I sent a letter via the Office of Secretary of the FSLN (document 1) outlining to each of the members of the National Directorate a number of suggestions for complying with what they had been mandated to do by the Sandinist Assembly in March in order to ensure a more proper handling of FSLN assets.

"Five months and eleven days after I sent my letter, having failed to receive any response or comment from any of our comrades on the National Directorate, and deeming the matter to be of continuing vital interest to the FSLN, I again sent the letter of 1 April (document 1), along with a copy of the enclosed (document 2).

"Days later, I received a note from Major Daniel Ortega (document 3), apparently in his own hand."

Complaints

"Unfortunately," the letter continues, "the note from Major Daniel Ortega comments on none of the essential points contained in my letter of 1 April. Consequently, having waited seven months and seeing that as of today, 30 October 1992, none of the members of the National Directorate has filed his Statement of Integrity concerning his personal holdings or given any sign that the administration of party property would be any different from what we learned at the meeting of the Sandinist Assembly on 28 and 29 March, I decided to send you these documents so that, based on the authority conferred on us by FSLN bylaws, we may proceed with greater understanding when we hear the Ethics Committee report to be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Sandinist Assembly (regular second yearly meeting)."

Reason

At the conclusion of his letter, Cardenal tells them sincerely: "Throughout all of this, I have been moved solely by my love for our FSLN and therefore, a desire to see it be both strong and honest."

No Publicity

He adds: "I also wish to note that I have not made these documents public and shall not do so. These are internal problems of the FSLN and should go no further. I hope that you will assume your responsibility as members of the Sandinist Assembly and not make this matter public."

Effect?

As we reveal these documents to the Nicaraguan people, we at LA PRENSA do not know whether we are on the brink of a new internal revolution of the FSLN generated by the issue of property.

Nor do we know whether the assets and property questioned include the *pinata* [Sandinist Government's looting of housing and land after election defeat] of Laws 85, 86, and 88, or only what transpired before the Sandinist election defeat.

Nor do we know whether the point that Cardenal proposes will be included in the agenda of the next Sandinist assembly. Finally, we do not know whether the FSLN Assembly will convene before the end of the year, as Cardenal assumes.

So it is when a party has plunged into a historic, moral, and political crisis. We are completely in the dark.

* Cardenal Explains Letters

93CA0047C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Dec 92 p 10

[Letter to the editor by (former Jesuit priest) Fernando Cardenal]

[Text] Managua, 9 December 1992

While I was participating in the International Book Fair held in Guadalajara, Mexico, the 29 and 30 November issues of LA PRENSA carried an internal letter concerning the management of FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] assets which I had sent to the members of the Sandinist Assembly.

I never intended for this internal document to be published, much less in LA PRENSA, inasmuch as it is a topic that should be debated within the confines of the highest organ of the party when the Congress is in recess, i.e., the Sandinist Assembly. However, now that it has been made public, I believe it is essential to outline certain considerations for all Sandinists in order to prevent misunderstandings.

My letter to the National Directorate makes the following essential points:

The FSLN's assets have been divided up and are managed by various members of the National Directorate having other political responsibilities, meaning an inherent risk that one of these tasks may be neglected.

In order to further the sound administration of such assets, I made the following proposals:

1) that the management of all assets be combined and placed under the real and direct administration of the treasurer and a body of experts acting as trustees;

2) that the post of FSLN trustee be declared incompatible with any other political function;

3) that the administration of these assets comply with standards set forth by law and established accounting practices, that any existing irregularities be corrected, and that a competent auditorship be retained;

4) that an FSLN budget be drawn up showing all revenue and expenditures; and

5) that the budget include sums for direct aid and various types of advice to comrades who were FSLN professionals and who are now living in extreme poverty. All Sandinists economically able to do so could also contribute to this fund.

Motives

For me and for countless other Nicaraguans, Sandinism remains the only hope of solving the problems of the great dispossessed majorities who are now prey to ever greater poverty.

There is no other political alternative. Neoliberalism has failed and no other political group in the country has any intention of dealing with the problems of the majorities, not just those on the fringe, but all those generally excluded from the benefits of society.

The motives prompting me to write about the issue of property, first to the National Directorate and to the Sandinist Assembly next, stem from my principles as a priest and Sandinist moved by my love for the revolution and the people of Nicaragua and the profound conviction that ethical values are essential to the life of the FSLN.

The issues which Sandinism must face through its discussions: strategies, an alternative economic plan, platform of struggle, methods of leadership, and so on, cannot be dealt with adequately if we do not first resolve a basic problem: regaining the trust of the rank and file and all people comprising the FSLN based on our adherence to its historic ethical values. Sandinism must regain the prestige that once characterized it, based on honesty, solidarity, and transparency.

All of which leads me to take a position in favor of the principles and ethical values I learned through my Christian training and which were strengthened by the example of Carlos Fonseca, Eduardo Contreras, and many other Sandinist leaders.

Clarifications

My concern for the handling of FSLN assets and faithfulness to ethical values has nothing to do with the confusion which LA PRENSA is trying to generate vis-a-vis the validity and application of Laws 85, 86, and 88. These laws help more than 150,000 Nicaraguan families, including countless peasants and settlers in poor urban districts, and they are being challenged by 5,384 persons, including Lilliam Somoza de Sevilla. I cannot believe that anyone could harbor any doubt about which side I take in this debate.

My interest in helping to manage the internal affairs of the FSLN reflects no division, but rather, only a beneficial and healthy exchange of ideas and comparison of positions. Almost three years after our election defeat, we are now more united than the parties that won the most votes in the elections! Our unity is solid because it is critical, aware, and free.

Appeal

I am now calling upon Sandinists to discuss publicly and in party forums this and any other topic relating to the validity of ethical values. It is not a discussion that seeks to divide, but rather, to strengthen and purify the FSLN internally and vis-a-vis the people. It helps to rebuild and renew Sandinism, so urgent in these difficult times.

I do not agree with those who think that such issues should not be posed, arguing that they provide the enemy with arms. I believe that under these circumstances, the basic enemy of Sandinism is a lack of ethics and loss of historic values by those who have given so much of their lives.

The decade of the Sandinist government was marked by honesty, unconditional devotion to work, and a revolutionary mystique. The people bear witness to this. We were all proud to call ourselves Sandinists and must therefore define responsibility for abuses committed by individuals in the name of the FSLN.

I therefore remind members of the Sandinist Assembly of the need to hold the regular session which FSLN bylaws state must be convened during the second half of the year.

Argentina

Serbian Troops Release Border Policemen

PY2901133993 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1243 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jan (TELAM)—Juan Antonio Ferreira Pinho, secretary for military affairs of the Defense Ministry, reported this morning that the two Argentine Border policemen held by Serbian troops in Croatia were released today.

The official told TELAM that the two men were released at 0900 Argentine time [1100 GMT] (1200 Croatian time) and that they are in perfect health.

CNEA Rejects Greenpeace Charges Against Plant

PY2801201993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1312 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (NA)—The National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) has announced that "no nuclear accident, contamination, or other event affecting security has ever been proven" at the Atucha-1 nuclear plant. This response was prompted by a petition by the Greenpeace environmental organization to permanently close the plant.

The CNEA yesterday released its response in which it describes statements by Greenpeace's Latin American representative Juan Schroeder as "false" and accuses him of "distorting information" and of "seeking to impose their viewpoint"

"It is not true that recent problems at Atucha-1 had anything to do with the incident in 1988 [when the plant was closed for about 18 months after a coolant pipe broke, causing damage to some fuel rods], or that the breakdown was classified as dangerous for any reactor," the note says.

The note says that the breakdowns in question "do not figure on the International Atomic Energy Agency scale of events."

The note says the plant will resume operations once the electricity transformer is completely repaired, "which is not a criminal act or a game of Russian roulette" as Schroeder portrayed. "It means resuming our efficient contribution to the national electricity generating scheme," the note concludes.

CNEA Reports Cobalt 60 Shipped to Colombia

PY2801205293 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Jan 93 p 5

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] Argentina exported 100,000 curies of Cobalt 60 to Colombia this week, a communique from the National Atomic Energy Commission reported yesterday. The shipment, made in sealed containers and worth 130,000 dollars represents the first time this product has been exported to Colombia, where it will be used for industrial irradiation. Cobalt 60 is produced by the nuclear power station of Embalse Rio III and has been exported since 1986. Annual exports of Cobalt 60 come to some 1.7 million dollars.

Former Adviser Says Di Tella Uses Double Talk

PY2201150493 San Miguel de Tucuman LA GACETA in Spanish 16 Dec 92 p 13

[Text] "Guido Di Tella says one thing in private (his true speech, the speech that Argentina uses today in its international policies) and something else in public. His public speech was nationalistic, something he saw as necessary to preserve his political career. However, be careful. He changed and evolved between 1971 and 1984. His reversal is not recent."

This surprising remark on the Argentine foreign minister's double talk acquires credibility because the person making the statement is Carlos Escude, the author (even though he denies it) of our country's model of reinstatement into the international community. Escude was an adviser to Di Tella until this year [not specified] and helped him implement the ideas of a book he wrote in 1984. In "Argentina Vs. the World Powers: The Price of Challenging," [La Argentina Vs. Las Grandes Potencias: El Precio del Desafio] Escude wrote that our relations with the United States, Europe, and our Latin American neighbors "must be thought out in terms of costs and benefits."

His theory is that our government challenged the world without developing domestically. "We must get along well with the Yankees, not because they are good people but because the can be very bad," Escude told GACETA yesterday.

Escude came to Tucuman for two reasons. The first reason is emotional (he studied in Tucuman for three years). The second reason is that he will give a lecture at a dinner organized by Tucuman's Foundation at 2200 today. The topic will be "The Qualitative Change in Argentina's Foreign Policy Since 1989."

Escude is a sociologist with a PhD in political science from Oxford University with special studies at Yale. He denied that his position is one of "surrender or resignation." These are some of his definitions.

Carnal relations [relaciones carnales]: "It was a 'blunder' [boutade] that hurt Di Tella quite a bit. He wanted to say that we always challenged the hegemonic powers without having enough economic strength. Look at Japan and Germany. They were told that they could not have nuclear arsenals and they accepted it. However, Germany can now demand a seat on the UN Security Council and who will oppose it?"

Raul Alfonsin: "He embraced Fidel Castro, and said in a demagogical and imprecise speech that this was the way

to strengthen Argentine autonomy. The Japanese premier does not embrace Fidel because it is not good business for his national interests."

Carlos Menem: "He is the best Argentine president since Agustin Justo. I cannot completely define myself as an ardent Menem supporter because I do not like the proliferation of corruption and some things that are not very well thought out... I am afraid the government might implement demagogical policies to buy votes and get a reelection scheme approved. Absolutely, I am not a Peronist."

Relations with the United States: "I can assure you, in not very diplomatic terms, that Menem and George Bush were never very close.. There was, yes, a policy to establish the image of personal relations between the two."

Condor II: "A project so suspicious that it became the target of terrible economic discrimination by the United States. Why do we not dedicate our time—like New Zealand—to producing fertilizers?"

Terence Todman: "He is a great ambassador, not like Spruille Braden, who made systematic efforts to destroy Argentina."

Brazil

President Franco Installs Crusius, Erundina

PY2901013293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In a ceremony at Planalto Palace, President Itamar Franco today installed Planning Minister Yeda Crusius and Federal Administration Secretary Luiza Erundina.

[Begin recording] [reporter Antonia Marcia Vale] The two new ministers were installed in a ceremony during which two moving speeches were delivered. Luiza Erundina and Yeda Crusius promised to reestablish ethics in the government's economic, social, and administrative activities. They believe this is the only way to reduce differences between the social classes. Minister Yeda Crusius said the inhuman treatment given to workers, the search for immediate profit, and the governments' disrespect for taxpayers are examples of unethical behavior. Minister Crusius said her main duty is precisely to reestablish the government's traditional task of planning the economy.

[Crusius] We must orient investment within the framework of economic guidelines that call for medium-and long-term policies. By establishing open, secure, and stable rules, the Planning Ministry reduces uncertainties regarding an unknown future and modifies the economic agents' expectations for long-term policies to reduce the inflation rate.

[Vale] Minister Luiza Erundina rebutted criticism by her party, the Workers' Party [PT], and asserted that she decided to accept President Itamar Franco's invitation to head the Federal Administration Secretariat after considering PT commitments. She accepted the invitation because she believes she can help the country overcome its current serious crisis. Erundina asserted that her main duty is to reestablish the quality and dignity of public service and thus cooperate in strengthening public institutions.

[Erundina] The constitutional reform and the choice of a system of government, particularly if the country decides to choose the parliamentary system of government, will demand a profound reorganization of the Brazilian Government and thus make it more effective, modern, and—above all—democratic. All strata of society must be involved in this process.

[Vale] After the installation ceremony, President Itamar Franco briefly talked with journalists accredited to Planalto Palace. Franco criticized reports on possible economic plans that have been published in the newspapers and said these reports were lies. He again denied the implementation of fixed prices.

[Unidentified reporter] In his speech, President Itamar Franco again called for thorough unity among all Brazilians to allow the country to overcome the crisis. The president said this historic moment is not the time for disagreements.

[Franco] We are living in an historic moment in which the nation cannot dare to provoke sterile disagreements. Through reason and patriotism, we now must find the instruments to overcome the national difficulties.

[Reporter] The president also said the government will continue to work without worrying about deceptively unanimous opinions.

[Franco] The government is not seeking deceptively unanimous opinions. It is not expecting the noisy applause that sets terrible traps in the destiny of nations and imprisons dazzled politicians. The government wishes to count on the goodwill of Brazil's reputable men. The Brazilian situation is not sufficiently stable to allow the government to discriminate against doctrines or chase ideological witches.

[Reporter] Franco said he always has respected the opposition and will continue to do so. He added, however, that the government must respect the Brazilian people even more.

In his speech, the president urged his ministers to devote themselves entirely to their tasks, and added that in the area of public administration, when the chiefs are honest and the teams highly motivated, their common work receives recognition.

[Franco] Observing events that have been occurring worldwide throughout the centuries, we realize that in the administration of public assets there can be no greater effectiveness than that of certain high-ranking public employees. When the chiefs are honest and the

teams highly motivated, the results of their common work are excellent. Experience obtained in our few months in office indicates that in well-kept coffers there are always resources to finance government obligations, such as in the case of the Social Welfare Ministry.

[Reporter] President Itamar Franco expressed thanks for the support he has been receiving from the National Congress, particularly whenever the executive branch needs legal instruments to persevere in the task of rebuilding the government.

* Public Divided on Preferred Government System

93SM0123A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Dec 92 p 1-6

[Article by Andrew Greenlees: "Government System Divides Voters"]

[Text] With four months left before the plebiscite that will determine our system of government, the country is divided between parliamentarism and presidentialism. The latest DataFolha poll on the issue shows that 38 percent of those polled prefer a prime minister as head of the government, while 35 percent want power to be in the hands of a president of the republic, and 25 percent are undecided.

Those results make it clear that whichever side is most competent in marketing during the radio and television campaign will win the plebiscite scheduled for 21 April.

Beginning in January, each of the sides will begin setting up its campaign by looking for advertising men, technical crews, and, obviously, politicians to support the system it prefers. One of the main concerns for parliamentarians and presidentialists alike is their desire to prevent disagreements over the rules governing their systems from resulting in splits during the campaign.

"The poll shows that a significant learning process is under way," says political scientist Bolivar Lamounier. He points out that if the respondents able to define both systems and those able to define one of the systems are added together, it is seen that approximately 38 percent of those polled have some information about what they are supposed to decide in the plebiscite. "That figure is comparable to what we find in the advanced countries," Bolivar claims.

The political scientist concludes that even without a campaign, Brazilian voters already have some familiarity with the issue of the system of government. "This contrasts with the elitist opinion in certain sectors, where it is denied in advance that the voters are able to decide an issue as complex as this one," Lamounier says.

Lamounier, who supports parliamentarism, feels that that system will probably gain support as the debate continues. The presidentialists, on the other hand, believe that as the debate goes on, they will be able to persuade the voters that parliamentarism will not work in Brazil.

Level of Education

DataFolha's poll also shows that the preference for parliamentarism is linked to level of education and purchasing power. Of those respondents who completed primary school, 30 percent are parliamentarians, but among those with a higher education, support for the parliamentary system reaches 58 percent. In the case of the presidentialists, support is distributed evenly, with little difference among the various levels of education and income.

When the poll checks the familiarity of the respondents with systems of government in other countries, it finds that misinformation is more widespread. For example, only one out of five people (20 percent) could correctly name parliamentary countries. The great majority (76 percent) could not answer. The country mentioned most often was Great Britain.

Parties

The results also show that the parties with the most members favoring the parliamentary system are the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and the PT [Workers Party]. In the PSDB's case, that result could be expected, since the party advocates support for the parliamentary system in its platform. In the PT, the figures are appearing at a time when the party is having an internal debate—an increasingly vehement one—on which path to follow. A plebiscite of the PT's members is scheduled for February. Presidentialists predominate in the party's federal bloc. The parliamentarians consider themselves to be at a disadvantage in the party structure (with few representatives in the leadership bodies, few deputies, and so on), but feel that they are in a better position to win the internal plebiscite if a significant number of members more remote from the PT structure take part in the February voting.

One of the chief defenders of presidentialism is Governor Leonel Brizola (Rio de Janeiro). He apparently has not succeeded in imposing on his party, the PDT [Democratic Worker's Party], the presidentialist stamp he would have liked. Among the poll respondents who favor the PDT, the parliamentary system has a slight lead. In the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], the situation is a little better for presidentialist Orestes Quercia, but that system is only four points ahead of parliamentarism.

Voting Intentions in Plebiscite on Government System (percent)

		Region			
Answer	Total	Southeast	South	Northeast	North/Center-West
Parliamentarism	38	42	40	31	36
Presidentialism	35	33	38	36	39
Other answers	1	1	0	0	1
Neither of the two	1	1	1	1	2
Do not know	25	23	20	32	22

Note 1: Of those respondents having a higher education, 58 percent chose the parliamentary system.

Note 2: Parliamentarism has a majority in Sao Paulo: 51 percent of those polled chose that system of government.

Note 3: In Campo Grande, 35 percent support presidentialism. That is the highest percentage in any of the capitals.

Note 4: If parliamentarism is adopted, 3 percent would like for the prime minister to be Ibsen Pinheiro or Lula.

Preference by Party (percent)

Preference	PMDB	PT	PDS	PFL*	PDT	PSDB	Other parties	No party
Parliamentarism	38	50	43	28	42	58	40	33
Presidentialism	42	35	44	50	39	32	44	29
Other answers	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Neither of the two	1	0	0	1	1	-	2	1
Do not know	19	14	13	20	17	9	14	36

* [Liberal Front Party]

Knowledge of Systems of Government (percent)

Preference	Can distinguish systems/has correct notions	Can define only one/has correct notions about one of the systems	Cannot distinguish/has wrong notions about both
Parliamentarism	58	47	31
Presidentialism	37	38	35
Other answers	-	1	0
Neither of the two	0	1	2
Do not know	5	14	32

Voting Intention in Plebiscite on Government Regime

Regime	Percent
Republic	69
Monarchy	10
Other answers	1
Neither of the two	1
Do not know	20

Declining Support for Monarchy

The idea of restoring the monarchy in Brazil is declining sharply. In a poll conducted three months ago, the proposal to make a king the chief of state again was supported by 23 percent of the respondents. The monarchists now represent only 10 percent of those polled. On the other hand, support for keeping the republic is up, having risen from 52 percent to 69 percent—an absolute majority of the Brazilian population.

But if the monarchists won the plebiscite in April and were able to choose their king, preference would go to the descendants of Pedro I or, interestingly, a few traditional politicians such as Paulo Maluf, Lula, and Itamar Franco. But the majority (60 percent) have no suggestions as to who should occupy the throne.

Among the political parties, the PDS [Social Democratic Party] and the PDT are the ones with the largest number of supporters who also support restoration of the monarchy (13 percent and 14 percent respectively). The most republican party is the PSDB (85 percent).

Support for the monarchy is distributed evenly among the various levels of education and purchasing power. Preference for the republic rises along with the voter's level of education and income. The republic has the support of 77 percent of respondents with a higher education.

One-fourth of the respondents were able to correctly name a country where the monarchical system exists. Great Britain was the country mentioned most often.

Preservation of the republic has majority support in every region of the country, the capitals, the metropolitan areas, and the interior.

The results indicate that there is no major threat to the preservation of the republic, but doubts on that score have led the presidentialists to make the republican system one of the main points in their proposal. And they make it a point to say that the parliamentary system is closely associated with monarchy.

Of the parliamentarians polled, 15 percent support a monarchy, while 74 percent prefer the republic. Among the presidentialists, 81 percent are republicans, while 7 percent are in favor of restoring the royal family in Brazil.

How Poll Was Conducted

DataFolha's poll on the government system and regime was conducted on 15 and 16 December.

Interviewed were 2,500 individuals 16 years of age and older in all the states (except Roraima and Amapa).

The margin of error for this sampling process is plus or minus two percentage points.

DataFolha is headed by sociologists Antonio Manuel Teixeira Mendes and Gustavo Venturi, their assistants being Emilia de Franco, Mauro Francisco Paulino, and statistician Renata Nunes Cesar.

The poll is a survey by stratified sampling with random selection. The country's entire adult population was taken as the universe and divided initially into four subgroups representing geographic regions.

In each subuniverse, the municipalities were grouped according to geographic location and socioeconomic level.

In each group, municipalities previously stratified by size of population were then selected.

Once the municipalities were chosen by a process of successive selection, the process then continued by neighborhood, street, and individual.

* Trade With China Up Markedly in 1992

93SM0123B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 18 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by Cynthia Malta: "More Open China Buys More From Brazil"]

[Text] Sao Paulo—Gradual economic liberalization in China, a country with 1.2 billion inhabitants and an economy that is growing by about 10 percent this year, is opening up new business opportunities for Brazilian firms.

This year Brazil is increasing not just its exports of iron and steel, iron ore, and plastics to the Chinese market (according to data from the Foreign Trade Department (Decex), total exports through November amounted to $411.9 million, representing a 89.72-percent increase over the first 11 months of 1991). Other products such as chicken feet, guarana powder, padlocks, industrial sewing machines, and Christmas tree lights are also on the list of items being traded between the two countries.

The Chinese consul for economic affairs in Sao Paulo, Zhong Jingping, believes that the recovery in trade between the two countries is due basically to the policy of gradual opening-up that his country is pursuing in the economic field. He says: "The central government used to control everything in trade. Now most products no longer need a license to be sold." Government permission is required only in the case of a few products considered strategic—steel, cereals, iron ore, and urea, for example.

That relaxation of the rules in the field of trade, combined with a program of heavy government investment in the construction of roads, airports, and ports, has resulted in a sizable increase in international trade transactions this year. Official data show that during the first half of the year, Chinese exports totaled $35.61 billion, for an increase of 17.3 percent over the same period in 1991. On the import side, the total was $33.66 billion for an increase of 23.4 percent. Foreign capital investment also rose sharply, since the total from January to June amounted to $3.358 billion. That is an increase of 130.15 percent. In addition to the capital already invested, the volume of approved projects confirms the trend toward expanded foreign investment in the Chinese economy.

As of July 1992, the government had approved a total of 13,052 projects valued at $14.677 billion. The number of projects is 159.59 percent higher than during the entire first half of the year, and their value is up by 222.57 percent.

Although on a small scale, Brazilian firms are participating in the economic growth in China and even revising their way of doing business in that market. For example, more and more Chinese businessmen unconnected with the state-owned holding companies controlled from Beijing are coming to Brazil in search of partners for buying or selling. This year alone, the consul has received 82 delegations of Chinese businessmen. "We have never had so many," says Zhong, who has lived in Brazil for four and a half years.

The Sadia Group, which like most Brazilian firms supplies the mainland Chinese market through Hong Kong, is now keeping a close watch on the changes in that region and beginning to prepare a new action strategy. "Direct purchases will probably begin in 1993 or 1994,

and we are already visiting final purchasers of our products—industrial firms and wholesale networks—to pave the way for future relations," says Alex Fontana, Sadia's vice president for the international area.

For the past seven years, Sadia has been exporting frozen chicken feet to China, which competes with Brazil in selling whole chickens on the international market. This year, however, Chinese consumers, who appreciate chicken feet as a breakfast tidbit, are buying more: 250 metric tons of feet per month. This means that by the end of December [1992], Sadia will have exported 30 percent more to the Chinese market than it did in 1991. Chicken feet and giblets worth $30 million will have been shipped to the warehouse in Hong Kong. Of that total, about 15 percent is destined for mainland China.

China also receives Brazilian pork through Hong Kong. According to the Brazilian Association of Pork Exporters, 30,800 metric tons valued at $50.9 million were exported to Hong Kong between January and September 1992. That makes Hong Kong the leading buyer of Brazilian pork.

One of Brazil's largest manufacturers of auto parts, Platinum, Inc., is increasing its exports to the Chinese market by 30 percent—again through Hong Kong—this year. "In Hong Kong we now find subsidiaries of private firms headquartered in Communist China, and we do business through them," says Platinum's president, Carlos Raul Consoni, who foresees total exports of $12 million for his firm. "That is an increase of 15 percent over last year thanks to the Asian market," he says.

But it is not just chicken feet and pork that find a place on the Chinese menu. Consul Zhong says that the guarana soft drink produced from guarana powder exported from Brazil is beginning to gain a following among the Chinese people. "We are also interested in buying new products such as seafood and certain types of fish from Brazil," the consul points out, and he says he is "very optimistic, since the population's quality of life is improving."

Trade with China is also changing on the import side. China is a traditional supplier of coking coal to the Brazilian market—Brazil is expected to import about 200,000 metric tons of Chinese coal this year—and its economic opening-up has been a factor helping to reduce the price of that product. According to Consul Zhong's calculations, a metric ton of Chinese coal cost $77 in 1985, when trade between the two countries reached a record figure of $1.2 billion. "The price per metric ton has now fallen to somewhere between $65 and $68," says Zhong. "The price is falling because the importer can buy from many small firms, not just from the government," he explained.

But despite the opening-up, which has occurred especially in the country's southern provinces, the state-owned holding companies, which usually control thousands of enterprises, are still a strong presence in the Chinese economy. And the Brazilian firms active in that market operate through those megacorporations. That is the case with the Cotia Trading Company, which has had an office in Beijing since 1986. Cotia's exports of iron and steel products are negotiated with Minmetals, a holding company in the iron and steel sector whose activities in Brazil are headquartered in Rio de Janeiro. Minmetals is responsible for buying the entire volume of iron and steel products and distributing them in mainland China, and about six months ago, it again started issuing large purchase orders in the Brazilian market. That explains a large share of the increase of over 80 percent in Brazilian exports to China through October 1992.

But Arthur Teixeira Mendes Neto, Cotia Trading's marketing director for Asia, is cautious in his analysis of the Chinese market. "China is currently buying large volumes. But China is still an unknown quantity, and trade is not stable," he says. Official data confirm Mendes Neto's words. Trade between the two countries fluctuated considerably between 1985, when Brazil bought $418.56 million worth of goods from China and sold $817.58 million worth to that country, and 1991.

On the other hand, some businessmen are encouraged by the fact that while exports to traditional Brazilian consumer markets are falling because of the worldwide recession, business with China is growing.

Chile

Minister Comments on Presidential Independence

PY2901020393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by Manola Robles]

[Excerpt] During a new conference, Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, commented on several issues that were discussed during a cabinet meeting held today.

Upon being asked whether the letter General Pinochet sent to President Aylwin protesting the president's granting of pardons was to be considered a threat, Correa stated that there have not been and could not have been any threats by an institution subordinate to the executive branch, the president of the Republic.

He added that that is not in keeping with a democratic system, and that President Aylwin responded to Gen. Pinochet's letter with another letter, in which Aylwin restates that if the need arose for him to make use of his presidential prerogative, he would decide what to do in a totally independent way without being subject to any influences. [passage omitted]

Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Visits

PY2801221393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2322 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Santiago de Chile, 27 January (EFE)—Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas and

his Argentine counterpart, Fernando Petrella, met today in Santiago de Chile to discuss the border dispute in the area of the continental glaciers (otherwise known as the Patagonian continental glaciers).

Vargas said Petrella's brief visit—he already has returned to Buenos Aires—was one of the normal and frequent contacts between the two foreign ministries.

Vargas added that they reviewed several issues pertaining to bilateral relations, which he labelled as "very good."

Although he refused to give details of the meeting, Vargas conceded that the central point of the meeting was the treaty on the continental glaciers or Patagonian continental glaciers.

Vargas said that "there are some problems, which we hope will be overcome by the Argentine Congress," adding that the ideal solution would be that both congresses ratify the treaty simultaneously. [passage omitted]

According to an article in the evening edition of the newspaper LA SEGUNDA, Petrella also tried to "reassure certain Chilean sectors that mistrust Argentina following the purchase of public utility companies in Argentina and that have, since 1988, found it difficult to collect payment arrears."

"Endesa" [National Electric Company, Inc.] and "Chilgener" [expansion unknown] and other Chilean public utility companies successfully bid during the privatization of SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services] and some power plants.

Editorial Views Challenges for Clinton Policy

PY2901012893 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 21 Jan 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Clinton's Presidency"]

[Text] In the course of a hearing held by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee to confirm his appointment as secretary of state in President Clinton's administration, Warren Christopher stated that his friends told him he had "been entrusted with an important, albeit disagreeable mission."

To conduct American foreign policy is indeed a disagreeable mission because, as demonstrated by events in the Persian Gulf, the United States runs the risk of becoming the world's policeman. The fact that it is the only superpower left in the world has compelled the United States to perform some tasks that might lead it to play that role, which it does not wish to assume in the least for two reasons.

First and foremost, maintaining a military presence in other nations demands that the country's economy be thriving. Clinton has given top priority to the economic issue because it is obvious that the American economy has become weak and needs to be knocked into shape by means of comprehensive reforms in order to be able to compete with Japan and other countries that have forestalled the giant of the North. Second, within the framework of global diplomacy that role would only widen the gap between the United States and countries facing a crisis, whether political or other, such as the one confronting Somalia.

Therefore, the new administration will have to exercise extreme caution in a world that suddenly has become unpredictable and unmanageable. Given this situation, the best course of action for the new President might be to support UN resolutions, though he should avoid getting too involved like Bush did in the case of Iraq. Granted, Bill Clinton has wasted no time in endorsing the measures taken by the former president but, understandably, that was inevitable.

From Christopher's remarks during the aforementioned hearing, it is possible to infer that President Clinton will put great stress on supporting democracy, which has been a distinct trait of American foreign policy. Christopher summarized Clinton's stance on this issue with admirable succinctness: "We must formulate our foreign policy so that it revolves around the twofold aim of promoting democracy and foreign markets."

In sum, it is possible to infer that the new President will try to reconcile providing a solution to domestic problems with a dynamic foreign policy that will resort to preventive diplomacy, i.e. he will try to prevent the emergence of pockets of conflict with a view to warding off the possibility that they may degenerate into a crisis that would demand military intervention.

We can, therefore, rest assured because, according to the aims outlined by the U.S. secretary of state, there is room for a free trade treaty as well as for any other initiative designed to promote democracy and foreign markets.

Bomb Explodes at Police Precinct in Santiago

PY2901160493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by Claudia Samora from the mobile unit]

[Text] A bomb attack was perpetrated last night at the 12th San Miguel police precinct at 3868 Jose Miguel Carreras Avenue. The explosion caused damage but none of the 30 or so people at the site was injured.

The bomb exploded shortly before midnight, damaging the facade and shattering windows. GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] agents went to the scene to verify the type of bomb that exploded.

Colombia

Security Council Meeting Held in Medellin

PA2801151693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by Maribel Osorio]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria headed a National Security Council meeting in Medellin on 27 January to adopt new measures against the wave of violence in the city. In an unexpected trip to the Antioquia Department capital, Gaviria promised to send 2,000 more policemen and soldiers as reinforcements to fight terrorists.

The president paid an unexpected visit to the northeastern community, had breakfast with the Villa de Guadalupe parish priest, and inspected the work being done by community groups. The president also delivered a speech announcing a new security council and new solutions for an old problem: violence in Medellin.

[Begin Gaviria recording] We believe the measures that have been adopted and the actions that have been carried out by the public force and the authorities have been effective and have yielded good results. [end recording]

The results may be seen with the creation of 1,300 new jobs for teachers and an increase in the number of policemen. More than 500 policemen began working in December, for a grand total of !,600 by the end of 1992, not to mention the possible increase in the number of rookie policemen. [sentence as heard]

The solution to the first narcoterrorist wave in Medellin was compliance with the justice system. Now, with the failure of the authorities and the failure of those who surrendered to the justice system, the only solution will be to continue pursuing them.

[Begin Gaviria recording, in progress] ...intimidation, threats, and the killing of members of the public force. That is why the only thing I can say at this time is that the authorities have the responsibility to pursue these criminals. Of course, if these criminals decide to subject themselves to the justice system, the Prosecutor General's Office is there. [end recording]

What Gaviria tried to demonstrate on 27 January is that, despite the criticism, he is really concerned about the fate of Medellin.

Labor Minister on Announced Wave of Strikes

PA2901013193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Labor Minister Luis Fernando Ramirez by Monica Echeverry at the Labor Ministry Offices in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Echeverry] We are here with Labor Minister Luis Fernando Ramirez. Mr. Minister, what do you think of the announced wave of strikes? How will the government respond? Will the government declare the strikes illegal or allow them to take place?

[Ramirez] First, I must say that I do not think the conditions for strikes exist. I think the public clearly understands most of the decrees issued by the government on state owned companies. According to these decrees and by mandate of the Constitution, the reforms, liquidations, and mergers of some companies were required.

The government is aware that these reforms will entail social and labor displacement programs, which we are coordinating with the National Apprenticeship Service. This will permit us to train displaced workers and incorporate them into the economic production sector.

In other cases, such as the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, there are some difficulties with discussing the petroleum policy. I think that with the labor unions measures, with which they limit themselves to discussing wage issues, collective bargaining agreements will be reached without problems.

[Echeverry] In any event, the atmosphere is very tense and labor union fears are great, in the wake of the government measures. If pressure mounts, will the government be willing to soften its modernization measures?

[Ramirez] No. In principle, these decrees will be gradually and progressively implemented in the public sector. So far, no one has been fired. It is normal to see that many labor unions, where some workers will be affected, will protest. I think they will surely stage some marches. We must try to let them express their viewpoints without affecting the rest of the population. We must sit down at the bargaining table with different groups to try to settle our differences and explain some of the decrees, which are not fully understood.

I do not foresee a large strike. I think some marches and protests will take place, but I do not think that conditions exist to begin a strike.

[Echeverry] This is Monica Echeverry reporting from the Labor Ministry offices. Let us go back to the studios.

Army Commander on Rebel Plan To Attack Town

PA2901125793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] On 28 January the Army of National Liberation blew up the oil pipeline between Boyaca Port and Barrancabermeja. The size of the crude spill has not yet been determined. Simultaneously, the military forces stepped up their offensive and confiscated a large cache of weapons in [name indistinct] Cauca.

Meanwhile, during several operations in Norte de Santander, four rebels and one sergeant major were

killed. The clashes have taken place in rural areas of difficult access in Abrego and Las Mercedes. The Mobile Brigade uncovered a plan by 50 guerrillas, who are in the mountains with three kidnapped policemen. Here is what Army Commander General Hernan Guzman said regarding the plan to attack Ocana:

[Begin Guzman recording] They had a very detailed map of the police installations and of the Agrarian Bank. This leads us to believe they were planning a specific attack on these installations. [end recording]

Rebel Leader Captured During Military Operation

PA2901142393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In Medellin, Alfonso Huguita, alias Nacho or Albeiro, leader of a dissident wing of the Popular Liberation Army, was captured by the 4th Brigade. Huguita engaged in murder, extortion, and kidnapping in eastern Antioquia. The military operation has been extended to Sierra Nevada in Santa Marta.

Members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia 19th Front and of the Army of National Liberation clashed with forces of the La Popa Battalion and members of El Cesar Operation Commando No. 7 in Santa Marta Sierra, near Valencia de Jesus. The exchange of fire lasted approximately five hours. During the military operation, three rebels were captured and were immediately placed at the disposition of the regional prosecutor's office. Here is what Colonel Reynaldo Castellanos, La Popa Battalion commander, said:

[Being Castellanos recording] The operations continue in the region. We intend to continue these operations. El Cesar Operation Commando No. 7 has very clear orders regarding these maneuvers. [end recording]

Cooperation by the community is the strongest weapon of El Cesar authorities. Thanks to this cooperation, the operations staged in this area of the country in the past weeks have been successful.

The following were confiscated from the rebels: one R-15 rifle, five rifles, 10 dynamite charges, Claymore mines, fragmentation grenades, military and camping equipment, several caliber ammunition, and documents of interest for military intelligence.

Government Purchasing Russian Helicopters

PA2901012193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1512 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Jan (EFE)—Santa Fe de Bogota's LA PRENSA newspaper published on 28 January a report that Colombia will purchase 10 of the Russian helicopters used during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan for the struggle against the guerrillas.

The helicopters are armored "MI-8," "MI-17" and "MI-35" transport aircraft, some of which are already at Eldorado Airport in the Colombian capital, according to the source.

The helicopters were offered to Colombia for $2 million each, and it is expected that they will be purchased directly or through the "leasing" system (rental with the option to purchase).

LA PRENSA asserts that adequate maintenance and replacement parts are not available in Colombia for the helicopters because they are no longer being manufactured after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The newspaper points out that the Peruvian Air Force has a few helicopters of this type and that most of those that are functioning were purchased cheaply in Nicaragua.

The purchase of these helicopters was criticized in Peru, where they are considered "second hand junk" and military authorities later admitted their inefficiency, LA PRENSA said.

Poll on Popularity of Judicial Officials

PA2901004693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In the weekly poll carried out by CROMOS magazine, Caracol radio network, and the National Polling Center, Prosecuting Attorney Gustavo De Greiff scored 7.9, the highest grade on a scale of one to 10.

Attorney General Gustavo Adolfo Arrieta also got a very good grade: 7.3. Comptroller General Manuel Francisco Becerra was disqualified with a score of 7.0.

Seven for the comptroller, 7.3 for the attorney general, and 7.9 for the prosecuting attorney, who during a news conference held on 27 January said that the attorney general gave him the data to judge and put the case of the councilmen in his hands. He also mentioned that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office had issued the arrest warrants based on the preliminary investigation by the Attorney General's Office.

Ratings for Cabinet Ministers' Work

PA2901043993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The following are the results of a poll conducted at the request of the National Center of Consultation by CROMOS magazine and Emisoras Caracol during the week of 25 January. A total of 600 persons were polled in the nation's four principle cities: Santa Fe de Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla. The question asked was: Please rate, from one to 10, the work of the ministers in President Cesar Gaviria's cabinet.

Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin topped the list with a 7.6 rating; in second place, Education Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo with a 6.7 rating; in third place, Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos with a 6.6 rating; in

fourth place, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda with a 6.5 rating; in fifth place, Communications Minister William Jaramillo Gomez with a 6.3 rating; in sixth place, Economic Development Minister Luis Alberto Moreno with a 6.2 rating; in seventh place, Public Health Minister Juan Luis Londono, [no rating as heard]; in eighth place, Luis Fernando Ramirez, labor and social security minister, [no rating as heard]; in ninth place, Government and Interior Minister Fabio Villegas, [no rating as heard]; in 10th place, Jorge Bendeck Olivella, public works and transportation minister, with a 5.9 rating; in 11th place, Guido Nule Amin, mines and energy minister, [no rating as heard]; in 12th place, Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero with a 5.6 rating; and at the bottom of the list is Rudolf Hommes, finance and public credit minister, with a 5.2 rating. We would like to point out that the rating of Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez has not been included.

Paraguay

Argana Addresses Rally, Claims Victory

PY2801173493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] Colorado Party presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana has warned that the party might fall from power on 9 May if candidates who do not represent the Colorado people are imposed upon the party. The politician said treason had been committed against Colorados, but stressed that he would win the legal battle. These remarks were made last night during a speech at a rally organized at this movement's political headquarters. Nearly 4,000 "Arganists" attended the rally to celebrate, they said, the one month anniversary of their victory in the primaries.

"We are sure that if the people's will is respected, the Colorado Party will win the 9 May elections. If, on the other hand, disloyalty, treason against democratic principles, and cheating the people and people's sovereignty prevail; if candidates who do not represent the majority of Colorados are elected against the will of the Colorado people; if 'untrue Colorados' are granted victory, it will be the ruin and the downfall of the Colorado Party," Argana emphasized.

The presidential hopeful said the people already know the names "of that shameless bunch of representatives who will be historically responsible—for centuries and centuries to come—for this despicable treason against the Colorado people."

"The defeat hanging on the horizon of 9 May under the leadership of the 'untrue Colorados' who would take the convention by force, who would install an arbitrary tribunal and against the people's will, against justice, against the documents and electoral results, would implement the fraud of granting victory to those who do not represent the Colorado Party, would deserve the Paraguayan and Colorado people's eternal and unforgiving condemnation," Argana stressed.

Argana stressed that Colorados as well as those who are not Colorados know who won the Colorado Party primaries on 27 December. The presidential hopuful said that illustrious public men from all political parties, from some foreign embassies, and even political rivals from the "Wasmosy" movement recognized the victory of the Argana-Ybanez ticket in the primaries.

The official party politician said that six individuals full of hate, rancor, envy, and anti-Coloradoism "are pacting with Colorado Party enemies to change the government, because they know that if the Argana-Ybanez ticket wins on 9 May it is the Colorado Party that will win again."

Argana, as well as Diogenes Martinez, who also spoke at the rally, warned that the Colorado people are tired of this situation involving the election, stating that they are ready for a tumultuous march on Asuncion to demand respect for the election results.

Traffic turned chaotic around the "Arganist" headquarters as a consequence of the closure of Espana and Padre Pucheau Streets. Rally organizers said they had requested the appropriate permission from the municipality to close those streets.

Legislators Criticize U.S. Ambassador Glassman

PY2801172493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman was harshly criticized during the session of the Permanent Commission in Congress yesterday. Colorado Party Deputy Carlos Duarte Torres was indignant over the fact that they learned about Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas' whereabouts from the ambassador, rather than from military authorities whom they approached to learn about the situation. Duarte Torres said: "This is the most ridiculous and unprecedented thing that could happen."

Colorado Deputy Miguel Angel Aquino voiced his protest and indignation over the way in which the infantry colonel was arrested. Aquino said: "I take advantage of this opportunity to say also that U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman should stick, once and for all, to his duties and devote himself to maintaining a good relationship with our country."

Aquino added: "It is time he rectified his foreign policy, and that we changed our mentality of being colonized people, this position of subservience, of being vassals, and strengthen our democracy."

In addition, in an excited tone of voice, Aquino said: "I want to end my remarks by reiterating my appeal, because for hierachic reasons I have participated in events in which the ambassador has participated, and have come to the conclusion that he is above our Constitution. This cannot be so; it makes no sense."

Aquino ended by voicing his sorrow over the fact that political leaders of all tendencies resort to the U.S. ambassador to seek a solution to conflicts. "This cannot be so; they must resort to the state powers which, although they may be weak, must be strengthened."

Congress Disapproves of Gonzalez Rojas Treatment

PY2801202893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 10

[Excerpt] The Permanent Congressional Committee yesterday issued a declaration in which it disapproves of the procedure used to detain Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas. The declaration was issued after the special committee that was appointed to investigate Gonzalez Rojas' whereabouts issued an oral report.

The legislators appointed to the committee were unable to meet with the Armed Forces commander in chief to explain the task of the committee and Congress' duty to uphold and enforce the law. In the declaration that was unanimously approved, the legislators protested over the procedure employed.

The declaration also repudiates "the behavior of Colonel Abilio Gimenez Acosta, assistant to the Armed Forces commander in chief, who today arbitrarily stopped the legislators appointed to the Permanent Congressional Committee from entering the Armed Forces commander in chief's office and thus from fulfilling the task entrusted to them by the committee." [passage omitted]

Gonzalez Rojas' Lawyer Files Appeals

PY2801211093 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 14

[Excerpt] The lawyer for Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas filed a writ of habeas corpus this morning for his client, who—by order of President General Andres Rodriguez, Armed Forces commander—has been imprisoned and held incommunicado in Pena Hermosa. The colonel's arrest was labeled a kidnapping and is considered unconstitutional.

According to the colonel's lawyer, Jorge Galli, the arrest ordered by the president "is described as kidnapping, and it is totally unconstitutional." Col. Gonzalez Rojas was arrested and sent to prison in Pena Hermosa to serve a 40-day disciplinary arrest.

In the face of this arrest, the colonel's lawyers this morning filed a writ of habeas corpus, a resource described by Article 132, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution, together with a writ of appeal, which they filed on time according to the law. The documents were accompanied by the official communique of the Armed Forces command establishing the reason for the arrest.

The measure adopted against the colonel even violates military procedural code because the lawyers appealed the decision made by military Judge Venancio Roman, who sentenced the colonel to prison during the slander trial supported by several generals against Gonzalez Rojas. Since the sentence was not served, because the colonel's defense filed an appeal, an arrest is not applicable. [passage omitted]

Peru

New Majority/Change 90 Candidate Reported Kidnapped

PA2901132293 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1216 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] A few hours before the municipal elections are scheduled to begin, subversives attacked the New Majority/Change 90 office in Comas. After the attack, Gustavo Samaniego, candidate for mayor of this independent community, was reported missing. His followers are afraid he was kidnapped.

At midnight, alleged subversives planted an explosive charge on Block 32 of Tupac Amaru Avenue in Comas. Samaniego's whereabouts are unknown after this subversive attack. A candidate for councilman comments on the incident.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] What happened after the explosion?

[Unidentified candidate] After the explosion, all of us ran outside shouting. A red car stopped briefly in front of the office and Samaniego was pushed into the car. Party officials, including the press official, tried to note the car's plate number.

[Reporter] Was Samaniego injured?

[Candidate] Yes, on his hand and he was seen to have difficulty getting into the car. We thought he was being taken to a clinic. We went to the San Francisco and San Agustin clinics and the Coyique and the Rimac hospitals. We are demanding that our candidate be released, regardless of the reason for his disappearance. [end recording]

The police are already conducting the preliminary investigations.

Police, Armed Forces Step Up Election Security

PA2901041193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister General Juan Briones Davila said that control and security in Lima are in the hands of the Armed Forces and the police. Briones said public transportation on election day is guaranteed, as are the polling places. The minister reported that authorities are coordinating with the various transportation companies to assure that they will operate normally to transport voters.

Car Bomb Explodes Outside IBM Offices

PA2801211193 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] A terrorist attack against the IBM offices on Javier Prado Este Avenue in La Molina neighborhood has injured several people and caused considerable damage. The terrorists placed a car bomb in front of the IBM offices, which, at the time of the explosion, also caused damage to nearby homes.

Dincote Presents Shining Path Subversives

PA2801153893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by Rocio Vicente—live]

[Text] On 27 January the Counterterrorism National Directorate [Dincote] presented six subversives who are members of the Shining Path annihilation commando that operated in the northwestern and central areas of the country, particularly in the city of Huacho. The prisoners are Tito Juan Tuya Rodriguez, Ada Gabriela Nivin Ortega, Doris Nancy Ortiz Valladares, Victor Huertas Estrada, Victor Alejandro Salinas Leon, and 31-year old Elmer Juan Tuya Rodriguez.

Here is part of the presentation at the Dincote facilities:

[Begin recording, unidentified Dincote official] The prisoners as well as Alexander Nicolai, Santiago Mendoza Ventoche, aka Comrade Emilio, and someone identified as Comrade Jose, all of whom are still at large, are members of the annihilation group that operated in the northern and central areas of the country.

They participated in the murder of Martin Berrocal Carranza, Revolutionary Leftist Movement candidate for councilman in Huacho, and Arturo Moreno Moreno, who was in charge of Berrocal's campaign. The event occurred on 17 January 1993 at the 21 January housing area in Huaura. The same subversive group killed common criminals in the rural area of Ruquia and La Perlita, Vegueta District, Huacho. [end recording]

The prisoners participated in the murders of Huacho candidates for councilmen and high-ranking police commanders. The; also participated in placing a car bomb at the Credit Bank in Huacho. Abundant subversive propaganda, weapons, ammonium nitrate fuel oil, and the so-called SP technical operation plan. [sentence as heard]

Six Criminals, Rebels Escape From Juliaca Jail

PA2801153893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by Augusto Maldonado]

[Text] At approximately 1930 on 26 January it was reported that six inmates escaped from the Social Rehabilitation Center, CRAS, on Azangaro Street in the city of Juliaca, San Roman Province.

The inmates who managed to escape include rebels and common criminals. Their names are: Zenon Puno Ramos, Bergen Ramos Torres, Benedicto Ramos Rosas, members of the outlawed Maoist Shining Path group; Julio Seopa Tapuyani of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement; and common criminals Ladislao Quiste Canasa, and Wilder del Castillo Asmat.

The National Police immediately carried out surprise raids in combined patrol operations. Border posts were officially informed in order to prevent the departure of the criminals.

In addition, at 0730 on 26 January a white van with license plate no. RZ1610 was intercepted on the Juliaca-Puno Road, and the driver was attacked. His whereabouts are still unknown.

Reports of this nature are worrisome because these incidents have taken place only a few hours before the elections.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Visits

PY2801190493 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 19 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] On 18 January Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park voiced satisfaction over the current Peruvian democratic process and respect for the freedom of the individual, especially following the measures adopted by President Alberto Fujimori.

Menendez mentions these points in a document he signed with his Peruvian counterpart Oscar de la Puente Raygada. He emphasized the desire of both countries to maintain and expand bilateral cooperation in support of peace and security in the world, respect for human rights, and the promotion of social development.

De la Puente Raygada noted with satisfaction the Guatemalan Government's efforts to reach a firm and lasting peace, to allow the return of refugees, and to consolidate democracy in that country.

The two Foreign Ministries also exchanged diplomatic notes that will obviate the need for diplomatic, official, and special visas, and to create a mechanism of diplomatic consultation at Foreign Ministry vice-ministerial level.

They voiced their willingness to sign an agreement to strengthen commercial and technical cooperation, and cultural exchange.

Menendez Park and President Alberto Fujimori held a private meeting earlier. He went to the Government Palace in the company of Guatemalan Ambassador to Peru Emilio Peralta.

* Coup Leader Sends Message to Army Officers

93SM0116B Lima SI in Spanish 7 Dec 92 pp 10, 95

[Unattributed report: "Message to the Barracks"; first five paragraphs are introduction; italics inserted by SI]

[Text] General (R) Jaime Salinas Sedo, who was arrested on the morning of Friday, 13 November for leading a conspiracy against the government of Alberto Fujimori, is now in the custody of the inspector of the Army's Dife [Special Forces Division], which is under the command of General Perez Documet.

SI obtained the following document from a close friend of General Salinas Sedo, whom this friend visited last week in his Dife cell.

The "Message to Army Officers," General Salinas's title for this document, contains information about the coup attempt and his views of the situation in the Army.

It also provides details about the plot to overthrow the chief of state, emphasizing once again that there was never a plan to assassinate Alberto Fujimori.

Because of its significance, we are publishing the full text of this document, which was prepared almost clandestinely by Salinas Sedo at the Dife. For several days he kept it hidden in his cell.

The main reasons that induced me to attempt this frustrated movement were the following:

1. To give notice of the attempt to engage the Peruvian Army in an election fraud that would damage its image beyond repair and deceive the Peruvian people about the true intentions of this dictatorship. We had evidence that General Cesar Solari had put pressure on Mr. Bustamante of the JNE [National Election Board] to turn over the computer programs that were to be used in the election. Mr. Bustamante said that with these programs in the hands of those who were to control the elections, it would be technically possible to alter data at the voting tables before it reached the JNE. Mr. Bustamante said the matter was so serious that he intended to seek political asylum in an embassy and speak out about this.

2. We also knew of the humiliating order many officers received to get signatures for slates of government candidates from their friends and relatives. Those who did not do so were penalized. Orders were also reportedly issued for all regions to support government candidates, further compromising our Army's image.

3. The dictatorship should be charged with the crime of national treason for destroying the Armed Forces, thus facilitating the entry of any foreign power into our national territory; if this had happened, we would have been unable to carry out our primary mission, which is to ensure to the Peruvian people their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Remember that the FFAA [Armed Forces] owe this duty to Peru and not to any particular temporary government, whose only ambition is to cling to power and pursue its illicit enrichment.

4. We have all felt the destruction of the FFAA, and without going into great detail, I will cite only a few instances:

a) The use of legal compulsory retirement provisions with an obvious political aim of removing those who will not allow themselves to be subjected, turning their posts over to servile and obsequious sycophants. Without leaders, no army in the world can function.

b) Manipulating promotions and changes in assignments to favor persons allied with the government.

c) Establishing in the FFAA a secret internal espionage system to generate distrust among its members, thus preventing people from expressing their ideas freely, because now no one knows who anyone is or when one might be betrayed.

d) Having to accept humiliating orders under threat of being penalized.

e) Subjecting all the FFAA personnel to hunger.

f) Fostering neglect of professional duties by forcing members of the FFAA to go outside to earn extra income in order to survive.

g) Encouraging the retirement or resignation of those who cannot tolerate this situation.

h) Turning toward crime those who, in desperation, have no other way to cope financially.

i) Discouraging future generations from choosing military careers, thus further favoring the entry of only the mediocre into military schools.

5. With the few facts I have mentioned above, we will in the future have an Army incapable of carrying out its mission, for its primary military virtues of honor, discipline, morality, loyalty, esprit de corps, etc., will have been destroyed; in their place will have been instituted treason, servility, lack of discipline, disloyalty, flattery, and crime, as normal traits in our ranks.

6. The dictatorship and the top military commanders also should be charged for their numerous crimes of corruption and abuse of state resources.

Comrades:

Our movement was not a coup d'etat, for we had already had a coup d'etat on 5 April; *we wanted only to restore to the nation its democratic normalcy, without returning to the situation prior to 5 April.*

National and international political consensus had already been reached that Mr. Maximo San Roman would assume the post of president which is legitimately his, and the political parties had agreed to dissolve Congress and call general elections within a period not to exceed one year. Officers' pay would be considerably improved, so they could maintain a decent lifestyle, and an end would be made to servility, tattling, betrayals, lack of trust—finally, everything that is today promoting our Army's destruction.

At the request of many officers who saw with despair that they could not rely on any of their present generals, I accepted the risk of coming back to do something for my country and for my Army.

Those who put their trust in me were not cheated, and if my action may serve to awaken dormant consciences, to overcome fears, so that all may once again walk with pride with their heads held high, then I will feel satisfied for serving my Army, even though I personally may have to serve a prison sentence.

The operation we had planned was very bold but it was feasible. It was halted before it began because a minor detail, which could have endangered the president's life, had gone wrong. The story that we wanted to assassinate him is totally false and comes from Fujimori's Machiavellian adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos, who wants to continue slandering all the officers who will not bow to his will.

Those who were voluntarily with me were obeying their constitutional duty to restore democratic normalcy to our country, putting an end to the harmful influence of the traitorous drug-trafficker Vladimiro Montesinos on our Army, and restoring to our officers their pride in wearing their nation's uniform.

I know we had a traitor in our midst, and someday his name will be known, and he will be repudiated as he deserves.

May you not allow this situation to continue; may you keep fighting until our Army is once again honored and respected.

My respects to all.

General Jaime Salinas S.

Venezuela

General Says Political Parties Knew of Coup

PA2901145293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1624 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Madrid, Jan 28 (AFP)—Coupist Venezuelan General Efrain Visconti has asserted that all the political parties, except the governing Democratic Action (AD) and the Social Christian Party (Copei), were informed of the 27 November coup plans. Visconti, who was given refuge in Peru, made the statements during an interview with the Madrid EL PAIS newspaper.

Visconti believed that "the person who would benefit the most with a similar coup attempt would be Carlos Andres Perez himself" and added that he did not believe a coup "would have big possibilities of being successful."

According to the Venezuelan general, the following groups knew of the coup plans: the Movement for Socialism, which is the third political force in Venezuela; the Radical Cause Party, which is Caracas Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz' party; the intellectuals; the clergy; the science academies; the Patriotic Front [Frente Patriotico]; and the Democratic Table [Mesa Democratica].

Visconti believes this proves that the coup attempt "was not an exclusive Armed Forces movement." In his statements to EL PAIS, he asserted: "It is not true Venezuela has a democracy." He added: "What we have is a party dictatorship [partitocracia] and a leadership of cliques led by parties."

"Now, the leaders behave as in the period of dictator Gomez and the national budget is the booty," he stated.

Gen. Visconti explained the developments that took place between the two military coup attempts on 4 February and 27 November. He narrated how "Carlos Andres Perez threw all the reform proposals he had been advised to carry out into the wastebasket." This led to the search for a military solution. "We prepared a military action program and a political program to interact with the political, civilian, and intellectual world," he said.

The officer added they had never made an attempt against President Perez' life because they wanted to avoid turning him into a martyr and "losing the opportunity of taking him to trial."

Finally, Visconti said: "Perez has been a populist. He has manipulated Venezuela's reality for his personal purposes and those of his group, all of whom have practiced corruption and trampled on the national morals in Venezuela."

Foreign Minister on Group of Three Meeting

PA2801152793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The presidential summit of the Group of Three and Central America to establish a free trade agreement will be held from 11 to 12 February here in Caracas. Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich made the announcement upon leaving the Miraflores Palace. The official indicated the presidents are expected to sign the Caracas Declaration, which contains the economic, political, cultural, and social decisions that have been negotiated by the Group of Three deputy foreign ministers.

Although the topics to be discussed during the meeting are of vital importance, the presidents are expected to devote their attention to economic matters.

[Begin Ochoa recording] We are conducting negotiations. As you know, these are very complex negotiations that require reaching an agreement to balance the economies involved. We are working constantly and hope to have reached major progress when the meeting takes place. [end recording]

Official on Minister Trip to OPEC Countries

PA2801151693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] According to Rafael Guevara, deputy Energy and Mines minister, the outcome of the meeting of OPEC members to discuss cutting production by 1.5 million barrels to strengthen the international price of the crude, will in no way affect Venezuela because our country is not overproducing oil.

[Begin Guevara recording] Minister Alirio Parra, in his dual capacity as energy and mines minister and OPEC conference president, is visiting OPEC members to discuss the measures the group might take to stabilize the price of oil and raise them to previous levels as much as possible. Price recovery is linked to two important factors. One is the economic recovery of the industrialized world, and the second is the decision OPEC members might make to lower their production to levels in line with the world's oil demand to avoid a surplus. Without a surplus in the market, prices will be within the reasonable limit that favors producers and does not affect the economies of major consumers. [end recording]

At present, OPEC production fluctuates at 24 million barrels a day, whereas Venezuela's production is 2.360 million barrels a day. If any new reduction in the production ceiling is agreed on it would become effective 1 March. Minister Alirio Parra is expected to arrive in the country the weekend of 30 January, after meeting OPEC members to reach a consensus necessary to reduce oil production. The final decision will be adopted in the upcoming conference to be held in Vienna on 13 February.

Supreme Court Announces Report on Special Trial

PA2901035693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] A report on the annulment of Decree 2669 was read on 28 January at the Supreme Court of Justice. Decree 2669 established a special trial for the persons involved in the 27 November coup attempt.

All magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, the attorney general, the attorney general's prosecutor to the court, lawyers, and some relatives of those involved in the 27 November 1992 events were present when the report on the annulment of Decree 2669 was read.